

Final Push In Kenya Siege

JASON STRAZIUSO
TOM ODULA

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) —

Kenyan security forces battled al-Qaida-linked terrorists in an upscale mall for a third day Monday in what they said was a final push to rescue the last few hostages in a siege that has left at least 62 people dead.



Dark smoke billows above the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, after a loud explosion Monday, Sept. 23, 2013.

(AP Photo/Sayyid Azim)

While the government announced Sunday that "most" hostages had been released, a security expert with contacts inside the mall said at least 10 were still being held by a band of attackers described as "a multinational collection from all over the world." The expert, who insisted on anonymity to talk freely about the situation, said many hostages had been freed or escaped in the previous 24-36 hours, including some who were in hiding. However, there were at least 30 hostages when the assault by al-Shabab militants began Saturday, he said, and "it's clear" that Kenyan security officials "haven't cleared the building fully."

Continued on next page

WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY



President Barack Obama participates in a roundtable discussion for heads of state, civil society organizations, United Nations, Community of Democracies and private foundations, sponsored by the Civil Society, Monday, Sept. 23, 2013, in New York.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

Obama opens UN talks with 3 diplomatic pathways

JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

NEW YORK (AP) — President Barack Obama opens meetings at the United Nations with diplomatic opportunities on three vexing issues: Iran's disputed nuclear program, Syria's chemical weapons use, and elusive peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

All three pathways are fraught with potential pitfalls and hinge on cooperation from often unreliable nations. Obama also risks being branded as naive and misguided if the efforts fail, particularly in Syria, where he's used the prospect of diplomacy to put off a military strike in retaliation for a chemical weapons attack.

Still, the recent developments mark a significant shift on a trio of issues that have long proved problematic for Obama at the United Nations. His former Iranian counterpart used the annual U.N. General Assembly meetings as a venue for fiery, anti-American speeches. Failed Middle East peace talks led the Palestinians to seek statehood recognition at the U.N. despite staunch American objections. And the Obama administration has been stymied on Syria at the U.N. Security Council due to intractable Russian opposition. But this year, Iran has a new leader who is making

friendly overtures toward Obama, raising the prospect of a meeting at the United Nations. U.S.-brokered peace talks between the Israelis and Palestinians have resumed—though on an uncertain course. And Russia has joined with the U.S. on a diplomatic deal to strip Syria of its chemical weapons. Joel Rubin, a former State Department official who now works at the nonproliferation organization Ploughshares, said the confluence of events underscores an often frustrating aspect of diplomacy. "You never know when it's going to break," said Rubin. He said Obama's biggest test now is to recognize if opportunities morph into stalling tactics.

Obama's advisers cast the sudden signs of progress as an outgrowth of the president's long-standing preference for resolving disputes through diplomacy and, in the case of Iran and Syria, with pressure built up through economic sanctions and the threat of military action. "He said we'd be open to diplomacy, we'd pursue engagement, but that there would be pressure if Iran failed to take that opportunity," said Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser. And on Syria, Rhodes said it was the credible threat of a U.S. military strike "that opened the door for this diplomacy."

Continued on next page

Obama opens UN talks with 3 diplomatic pathways

Continued from front

Obama was due to arrive in New York Monday afternoon. He will address the U.N. on Tuesday, a speech aides say will touch on developments in Iran, Syria and Middle East peace. The issues will also be at the forefront of some of the president's bilateral meetings with world leaders, including a sit-down with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Lebanese President Michel Suleiman, whose country is burdened by the flow of refugees from neighboring Syria.

But Obama's most closely watched meeting may end up being with Iranian President Hasan Rouhani. No encounter is scheduled, but U.S. officials have left open the possibility the two men might talk on the sidelines of the international gathering.

If they do, it would mark the first meeting of U.S. and Iranian leaders in more than 30 years. A meeting could also be a precursor to renewed talks on Tehran's disputed nuclear program — though bridging differences over Iran's right to enrich uranium and maintain those stockpiles will be a far tougher task than arranging a handshake.

The election of Rouhani, a moderate cleric, signaled frustration among many Iranians with their country's international isolation and the crippling impact of Western sanctions. Obama and Rouhani have already exchanged letters. And the new Iranian president's rhetoric has so far been more palatable to the U.S. than former leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who would threaten Israel as well as lambast the U.S. in his annual remarks at the U.N.

Trita Parsi, the president of the National Iranian American Council, said Rouhani

suits. "If he can't show that his diplomatic approach will

driver's seat," Parsi said. As Rouhani considers re-engaging with the U.S.,



President Barack Obama meets with Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan in New York, Monday, Sept. 23, 2013. Obama is in New York and is scheduled to address the United Nations General Assembly tomorrow.

shares with Obama a need to prove to a domestic audience that diplomacy can produce concrete re-

pay more dividends for Iran that Ahmadinejad's theatrics, then it's back to the conservatives being in the

he's closely watching diplomatic developments in Syria, an Iranian ally.

A chemical weapons attack near Damascus in August brought the U.S. to the brink of a military strike. But an idea floated by Secretary of State John Kerry turned into a last-minute overture from Russia — another backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad — and resulted in a deal to turn Syria's chemical weapons stockpiles over to the international community.

The breakthrough was particularly unexpected given that Russia has thwarted U.S. efforts to punish Assad through the U.N. Security Council. When Obama was on the verge of launching a strike against Assad's regime, he said the U.N. had an "incapacity" to address Syria's violation of international agreements banning the deployment of deadly gases.

Now the U.S. once again sees a role for the Security Council. The U.S. wants the panel to approve a resolution making the U.S.-Russian agreement legally binding in a way that is verifiable and enforceable. But a key obstacle remains, given U.S. and Russian disagreement over whether to put the resolution under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter.

Kenyan officials claim last push to end mall siege

Continued from front

Flames and dark plumes of smoke rose Monday above the Westgate shopping complex for more than an hour after four large explosions rocked the surrounding neighborhood. The smoke was pouring through a large skylight inside the mall's

main department and grocery store, where mattresses and other flammable goods appeared to have been set on fire, a person with knowledge of the rescue operation told The Associated Press.

The explosions were followed by volleys of gunfire as police helicopters and

a military jet circled overhead, giving the neighborhood the feel of a war zone.

By evening, Kenyan security officials claimed the upper hand.

"Taken control of all the floors. We're not here to feed the attackers with pastries but to finish and

punish them," Police Inspector General David Kimaiyo said on Twitter.

Kenya's Interior Minister Joseph Ole Lenku said the evacuation of hostages had gone "very, very well" and that Kenyan officials were "very certain" that few if any hostages were left in the building.

But with the mall cordoned off and under heavy security it was not possible to independently verify the assertions. Similar claims of a quick resolution were made by Kenyan officials on Sunday and the siege continued.

Authorities have also not provided any details on how many hostages were freed or how many still remain captive. Three attackers were killed in the fighting Monday, Kenyan authorities said, and more than 10 suspects arrested. Eleven Kenyan soldiers were wounded in the running gun battles.

Somalia's al-Qaida-linked rebel group, al-Shabab, which claimed responsibility for the attack, said the hostage-takers were well-armed and ready to take on the Kenyan forces.



Kenyan security personnel and journalists duck behind a vehicle as heavy gunfire erupts from the Westgate Mall in Nairobi Kenya Monday Sept. 23 2013.

(AP Photo/ Jerome Delay)

NYC professor is grateful for help after bias attack

MEGHAN BARR
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A Columbia University professor who is Sikh said Monday he was overwhelmed by the support he received since being attacked by a group of young men who called him "Osama" and a "terrorist."

Prabjhot Singh, 31, told reporters on Monday he is thankful that his injuries, including a fractured lower jaw, are not worse.

The attack occurred around 8 p.m. Saturday in upper Manhattan. Singh said he was walking with a friend after dropping off his 1-year-old and his wife at the family's apartment when he was approached by a group of 12 or 15 young men.

"I heard 'Get him. Osama.' I heard 'terrorist.' And I felt somebody grab my beard," Singh said. "What ensued was punching until I was ultimately on the ground."

Singh said three bystanders intervened and stopped any further damage, but his lower jaw was fractured and was wired shut by an oral surgeon on Sunday. The NYPD's hate crime task force is investigating the crime as a possible bias attack. Surveillance video released by police shows about a dozen men on bicycles circling around the area where the attack occurred.

Police say Singh was punched and kicked about six times.

Sikhism is a peace-loving religion that originated in India and preaches equality and a commitment to justice. Its practitioners have been targeted by attackers who in some cases confuse Sikhism and Islam because Sikh men and boys are required to wear turbans and beards.

Last year, Singh was the co-author of an op-ed piece in The New York Times that accused the federal government of failing to accurately measure the extent of anti-Sikh violence. □

Obama endorses de Blasio in New York mayor's race

DAVID W. CHEN
© 2013 New York Times

What a difference four years makes.

In 2009, President Barack Obama offered one of the most tepid endorsements in recent memory

Michael R. Bloomberg. Even Thompson seemed surprised by the news.

But this year, with Bloomberg set to leave office, Obama decided not to wait until late in the campaign to support the

"a great mayor." He also cited three of de Blasio's top priorities - financing prekindergarten education, making housing more affordable and preserving community hospitals.

"Bill's agenda for New York

since garnering just more than 40 percent of the vote in a hotly contested nine-way primary two weeks ago, de Blasio has been rolling out, in near-daily doses, endorsements from local and national Democrats who are backing him in the November general election.

Several veterans of Obama's 2008 and 2012 campaigns are now senior campaign advisers to de Blasio, including de Blasio's campaign manager, Bill Hyers, and John Del Cecato, who has been most responsible for his commercials.

Meanwhile, Bloomberg - who endorsed Obama in 2012 - has said that he will not endorse anyone in November, a blow to the candidacy of the Republican candidate, Joseph J. Lhota, a former deputy mayor under Rudolph W. Giuliani.

The candidate who may be able to claim the closest working relationship with the president is Adolfo Carrion Jr., a former Democrat who is now running for mayor on the Independence Party line. He worked for about a year in the Obama White House as the director of urban policy, then for two years as a regional official with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. □



City Council speaker Christine Quinn, right, looks up at Democratic mayoral hopeful Bill de Blasio during a news conference on the steps of City Hall in New York. President Barack Obama endorsed de Blasio for mayor. De Blasio will face Republican nominee Joe Lhota in the Nov. 5 general election.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

when his spokesman suggested indirectly that the president was supporting the Democratic candidate for mayor of New York, William C. Thompson Jr., in his race against Mayor

Democratic nominee: Bill de Blasio.

In a statement released by de Blasio's campaign, Obama said de Blasio's platform of "progressive change" would make him

is marked by bold, courageous ideas that address the great challenges of our time," Obama said in his statement.

Obama's endorsement was hardly a surprise. Ever

South Carolina man wins \$400M Powerball jackpot

JEFFREY COLLINS2 hours ago

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The winner of a \$400 million Powerball jackpot cashed in his ticket Monday in South Carolina, but he told lottery officials that he wants to remain anonymous.

The lottery released a few details about last week's winner, who lives in Columbia.

He stopped to get gas at a Murphy Express gas station in Columbia the day of the drawing last Wednesday and his wife told him to buy some hot dog buns. The store didn't sell buns, but after seeing the \$400 million prize advertised, the winner

bought \$20 in lottery tickets instead, lottery officials said.

It was only his second time playing the lottery, he told officials.

The winner checked his ticket Thursday at his home and realized he was a winner. He told the only creature around, his dog, according to the South Carolina lottery.

His dog, his wife and lottery officials may be the only people who know the winner for certain. South Carolina is one of only six Powerball states that allow winners to refuse to let their identities to be released. The others are Delaware,

Kansas, Maryland, North Dakota and Ohio.

Lottery officials aren't saying whether the man took the \$399.4 million payout over 30 years or the direct cash option of \$233 million. The jackpot was the fourth largest in the history of the game. The South Carolina man was the only winner. The winning numbers were 7-10-22-32-35, with the Powerball of 19, and were selected by the computer as a "quick-pick."

The winning ticket was bought at a Murphy Express just off Interstate 20 west of Columbia, the state capital. The store will get a \$50,000 bonus for selling

the winning ticket.

State officials said the winner will pay South Carolina about \$15 million in taxes. The last big Powerball winner in South Carolina also bought his winning ticket at a Murphy Express, but on the other side of Columbia. The Rev. Solomon Jackson Jr. won nearly \$260 million in 2009.

He has been active in the community, giving millions of dollars for education around the state. Two days after last week's big jackpot drawing, Jackson gave \$500,000 to purchase two new 56-seat luxury coach buses for Benedict College in Columbia. □



- Attractive Rates • Free Pick-Up
- Fast & Friendly Service
- Free Road Map

Call us for FREE Pick-Up:
583-0200



Ex-FBI agent to plead guilty to being AP source of leak

MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former FBI explosives expert said Monday he will plead guilty to revealing secret information for an Associated Press story about a U.S. intelligence operation in Yemen in 2012. The story led to a leaks investigation and the seizure of AP phone records in the government's search for the information's source. Donald Sachtleben said in court papers that he provided details of the operation to a reporter. Four

The deal is the latest legal action in the Obama administration's aggressive pursuit of people it believes have revealed government secrets, including seeking records and even testimony of journalists who prosecutors believe were given classified information and then published stories about it. Monday's court filing stems from an investigation launched by the Justice Department shortly after AP reported that U.S. intelligence had learned that al-Qaida's Yemen branch hoped to launch

more than 20 telephone lines used by AP reporters and editors, including some who worked on the story. The news cooperative protested the government's actions as chilling to investigative journalism and the company and its reporters did not cooperate in the investigation. AP chief executive Gary Pruitt called the records' seizure a "massive and unprecedented intrusion" into how news organizations gather the news. The court records do not identify AP or name the reporter who communicated with Sachtleben. But the headline from the AP story that ran on May 7, 2012 is reproduced in the federal court records and Larry Mackey, Sachtleben's Indianapolis-based lawyer, said the AP is the news organization described in the papers. Sachtleben spent 25 years as an FBI special agent bomb technician and worked on major cases involving terrorist attacks, the government said. He retired in 2008, but was rehired as an FBI contractor and kept his "top secret" security clearance and access to the FBI lab in Quantico, Virginia. In court papers, Sachtleben said he visited the FBI lab on the morning of May 2, 2012, at the very time that FBI experts were examining the bomb. Sachtleben shared that information with a reporter the same morning, the government said. The AP story ran five days later, on May 7, 2012. The news organization had initially agreed, for several days, to the Obama administration's requests to hold off on publishing it. The child pornography investigation did not become public until May 11, when the FBI searched Sachtleben's home and seized a Sony laptop from his truck in the driveway. □



CIA Director John Brennan meets with Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) of the intelligence committee on Capitol Hill in Washington. CIA Director Brennan has called the leak on an intelligence operation in Yemen "irresponsible and damaging."
(Brendan Hoffman/The New York Times)

months ago, Sachtleben also acknowledged he distributed and possessed pornographic images of underage girls. A plea agreement filed in U.S. District Court in Indianapolis calls for 11 years and eight months in prison for both crimes. The Justice Department said in a statement that its pursuit of Sachtleben was made easier by the child pornography investigation, but that Sachtleben was not identified as a suspect in the leaks case until after investigators had analyzed the AP phone records and compared them to other evidence in their possession. AP spokesman Paul Colford said, "We never comment on sources."

a spectacular attack using a new, nearly undetectable bomb aboard a U.S.-bound airliner around the anniversary of Osama bin Laden's death. The AP's May 7, 2012, story attributed details of the operation, including that the FBI had the bomb in its possession, to unnamed government officials. CIA Director John Brennan has called the leak "irresponsible and damaging," while Attorney General Eric Holder said the story was the result of "a very serious leak, a very grave leak." Just over a year after the story appeared, on May 10, the Justice Department informed AP that it had secretly obtained nearly two months of call records for

Increasingly popular bathroom wipes to blame for sewer clogs

CAROLYN THOMPSON
Associated Press

BEMUS POINT, New York (AP) — Increasingly popular bathroom wipes — pre-moistened towelettes that are often advertised as flushable — are being blamed for creating clogs and backups in sewer systems around the U.S.

Wastewater authorities say wipes may go down the toilet, but even many labeled flushable aren't breaking down as they course through the sewer system. That's costing some municipalities millions of dollars to dispatch crews to unclog pipes and pumps and to replace and upgrade machinery. The problem got worldwide attention in July when London sewer officials reported removing a 15-ton "bus-sized lump" of wrongly flushed grease and wet wipes, dubbed the "fatberg." In the New York town of Bemus Point, the problem got so bad this summer that sewer officials set up traps — basket strainers in sections of pipe leading to an off-clogged pump — to figure out which households the wipes were coming from. They mailed letters and then pleaded in person for residents to stop flushing them. "We could walk right up, knock on the door and say, 'Listen, this problem is coming right from your house,'" said Tom Walsh, senior project coordinator at South & Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer Districts, which was dispatching crews at least once a week to clear a grinder pump that would seize up trying to shred the fibrous wipes. The National Association of Clean Water Agencies, which represents 300 wastewater agencies, says it has been hearing complaints about wipes from sewer systems big and small for about the past four years. That roughly coincides with

the ramped-up marketing of the "flushable cleansing cloths" as a cleaner, fresher option than dry toilet paper alone. A trade group says wipes are a \$6 billion-a-year industry, with sales of consumer wipes increasing nearly 5 percent a year since 2007 and expected to grow at a rate of 6 percent annually for the next five years. One popular brand, Cottonelle, has a campaign called "Let's talk about your bum" and ads showing people trying to wash their hair with no water. It ends with the tagline: "You can't clean your hair without water, so why clean your bum that way?" Manufacturers insist wipes labeled flushable aren't the problem, pointing instead to baby and other cleaning wipes marked as nonflushable that are often being used by adults. "My team regularly goes sewer diving" to analyze what's causing problems, said Trina McCormick, a senior manager at Kimberly-Clark Corp., maker of Cottonelle. "We've seen the majority, 90 percent in fact, are items that are not supposed to be flushed, like paper towels, feminine products or baby wipes." Wastewater officials agree that wipes, many of which are made from plastic, aren't the only culprits but say their problems have escalated with the wipes market. Vancouver, Washington, sewer officials say wipes labeled as flushable are a big part of a problem that has caused that city to spend more than \$1 million in the last five years replacing three large sewage pumps and eight smaller ones that were routinely clogging. To prove their point, they dyed several kinds of wipes and sent them through the sewer for a mile to see how they would break up. They didn't. □

red sail sports Snorkel Sail

Our luxurious catamaran will take you to Aruba's best snorkel spots. Visit the Antilla ship wreck and more.

Morning and afternoon tours available

Book now! www.redsailaruba.com or by phone: (+297) 586-1603



A statue of the ten commandments is seen knocked over in front of the headquarters of Faith and Action, a Christian outreach ministry, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, Sept. 23, 2013. The 3-foot-by-3-foot granite monument, weighing 850 pounds, sits on a street behind the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington and was the subject of past controversy has been toppled by vandals. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

10 Commandments monument toppled by Washington vandals

JESSICA GRESKO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A stone monument of the Ten Commandments that sits on a street behind the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington and was the subject of controversy in the past has been toppled by vandals. The granite monument, which is 3-foot-by-3-foot (about 1-meter-by-1-meter), sits out front of the headquarters of Faith and Action, a Christian outreach ministry. The group's president said the tablets were angled so that justices arriving at Supreme Court would see them. The vandals pushed the monument over so that the words of the Ten commandments are now face down.

Faith and Action bought the stone tablets at a charity auction in 2001 and installed them in a garden outside its Washington offices in 2006. They were one of four removed by a federal court order from the fronts of public schools in Ohio.

U.S. courts have wrestled with whether public displays of the Ten Com-

mandments violate the principle of separation of church and state. In 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on two such cases: In one, the justices upheld a monument on the grounds of the Texas capitol in Austin.

In the other, they declared unconstitutional Ten Commandments displays at Kentucky courthouses.

The Rev. Robert Schenck, who heads Faith and Action, said the damage to the monument happened sometime between Friday night and Saturday night. Vandals bent a steel rod that secures the monument to a thick concrete base to an almost 90 degree angle. The monument itself is not damaged, Schenck said.

Officer Anthony Clay, a Metropolitan Police Department spokesman, said Monday that the case remains open.

Schenck said he did not know how much it would cost to bring the tablets upright, but the organization plans to reinforce the monument and install a security camera that monitors the area. □

Report:

US archdiocese to get 2nd archbishop

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)

— A second archbishop is to be named in the Roman Catholic Church's archdiocese in Newark, New Jersey, where the archbishop is nearing retirement age and has been under fire for his handling of the case of a priest barred from unsupervised contact with minors, a Catholic publication reported Monday.

Pope Francis is appointing a coadjutor archbishop to assist Archbishop John Myers, the National Catholic Reporter said. A coadjutor bishop is expected to succeed a bishop who retires or dies.

The bishop of Gaylord, Michigan, Bernard Hebda, will be named to the post Tuesday, said the Reporter, citing unidentified sources.

The archdiocese, which serves nearly 1.5 million parishioners in northern New Jersey, declined to comment but said it would be making "an announcement of significance" on Tuesday. Myers is 72, about three years from mandatory retirement. He has been archbishop since 2001.

He has been under fire for his handling of the case of the Rev. Michael Fugee, who stepped down in May. Fugee confessed to grabbing a boy's crotch but returned to the ministry under a 2003 agreement between prosecutors and the archdiocese that stipulated he be kept from unsupervised contact with minors. Instead, authorities say, he became a fixture at a youth group and at-

tended overnight retreats. He later resigned and was arrested on charges of contempt of a judicial order. In his resignation letter, Fugee said the archdiocese did not know about his youth ministry work.

"My failure to request the required permissions to engage in those ministry activities is my fault, my fault alone," he wrote.

Last month, Myers issued a scathing rebuke to criticism of his handling of an allegation of sex abuse in the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois, which he led from 1990 to 2001.

The Pittsburgh-born Hebda, 54, has a law degree from Columbia University and worked at a law firm for a year before entering the seminary. □

AURA CASINO

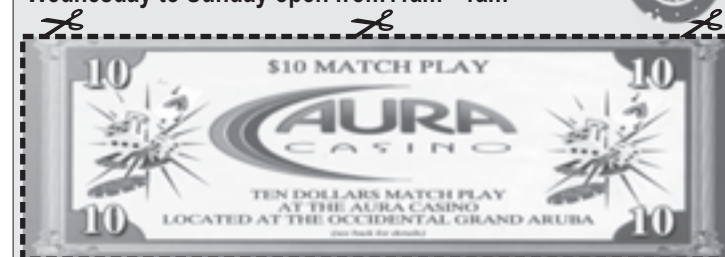
LIVE POKER
LIVE ACTION GAMES
DAILY TOURNAMENTS AT 8PM

Nightly **FREE Bingo @9:30pm** Win up to \$1000.

DAILY BINGO ON SUN-WED-FRI. FOR ONLY \$6
WIN CASH PRIZES AND MORE....

Hold-Em and Omaha Pot Limit
SPORTS BOOK OPEN DAILY:

Monday and Tuesday open from 11am - 11pm
Wednesday to Sunday open from 11am - 1am



ALL SPORTS & ALL MAJOR TRACKS AVAILABLE

Be There!

We are more pleased to have you!
AURA Casino • J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 83
Occidental Casino Aruba
Phone: 586-0705 ext: 322
E-mail: info@thecasinoaruba.com



Abercrombie settles US lawsuits over head scarves

PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Trendy clothing retailer Abercrombie & Fitch has agreed to make religious accommodations and allow workers to wear head scarves as part of a settlement of discrimination lawsuits filed in California, lawyers announced Monday. The retailer will now allow hijabs, the traditional head scarves worn by many Muslim women when in public.

One judge determined the company fired a Muslim worker from a California store, while another judge said it refused to hire another woman in the state because of their refusal to remove their hijabs during work.

The rulings came after the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed lawsuits on behalf of both women.

In court papers filed Friday, Abercrombie agreed to pay the women a combined \$71,000 and unspecified attorney fees.

Additionally, it has established an appeals process for workers who believe they were denied religious accommodations.

"Abercrombie & Fitch does not discriminate based on religion, and we grant

reasonable religious accommodations when they are requested," the company said in a statement. "With respect to hijabs, in particular, we determined three years ago to institute policy changes that would

the company's colors until a district manager visited the store in February 2010 and saw her for the first time in a hijab.

Khan was fired soon after when the company determined hijabs violated the

\$23,000 to settle her lawsuit that alleged Abercrombie discriminated by refusing to give her a job at its Milpitas store in 2008 when she was 18.

Khan's trial had been scheduled to begin in



The exterior of an Abercrombie & Fitch store is shown in Palo Alto, Calif. Abercrombie & Fitch has agreed to make religious accommodations and allow workers to wear head scarves as part of a settlement of discrimination lawsuits filed in California, lawyers announced Monday.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

allow such headwear."

Abercrombie will pay Hani Khan \$48,000 after firing her four months after she began working in the company's San Mateo store in 2009.

She had been allowed to wear a hijab that matched

company's "look policy" and detracted from its brand, the lawsuit stated.

"It wasn't about the money," Khan, 23, said at a San Francisco news conference. "It was a matter of principle."

Halla Banafa will receive

Oakland on Sept. 30.

A judge previously found that Abercrombie was liable for discrimination and all that was left for jurors to decide was how much Abercrombie should pay and what it needed to do to rectify the policy. □

US court weighs if horses are just innately vicious

STEPHEN SINGER

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Connecticut (AP) —

After a horse named Scuppy bit a boy in the face, a Connecticut court came to a conclusion that threw animal lovers: Horses are a naturally vicious species.

Horse owners and farmers are mobilizing as the state Supreme Court hears an appeal in the case Tuesday. Such a classification — America's first, if it stands — would make owning horses uninsurable and jeopardize the state's sizable horse industry, farmers and horse owners say.

"You could not pair children and horses, the core equestrian business nationwide that it's all about," said Doug Dubitsky, a lawyer who represents farmers and horse businesses.

When the boy tried to pet the horse at Glendale Farms in Milford in 2006, according to court papers, the animal stuck his neck out from behind a fence and bit the child on his right cheek, "removing a large chunk of it." In February 2012, the mid-level Appellate Court said that testimony by Timothy Astriab, whose family owns the farm, demonstrated that Scuppy belongs to "a species naturally inclined to do mischief or be vicious."

Although he had no knowledge of Scuppy biting anyone before, Astriab testified that Scuppy was no different than other horses that would bite if a finger was put in front of him. "Significantly, Astriab acknowledged his concern that if someone made contact with Scuppy, whether to pet or feed him, they could get bit," the justices said.

If allowed to stand, Connecticut would be the first U.S. state to consider horses as inherently dangerous, said Dubitsky. Horse farmers and equine enthusiasts, who cite 2005 statistics saying that the horse industry contributes about \$221 million a year to the state's economy in boarding, training, lessons and breeding businesses, are asking the state Supreme Court to overturn the Appellate Court's decision. □

BP renews bid to suspend settlement payments

MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) —

BP on Monday renewed its request for a federal judge to temporarily suspend settlement payments to Gulf Coast residents and businesses following its massive 2010 oil spill, citing a scathing report on alleged misconduct within the court-supervised program.

In a court filing, BP attorneys said the report issued earlier this month by former FBI Director Louis Freeh shows the settlement program is plagued by problems that need to be fixed. U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier already has rejected two previous requests by BP to suspend settlement payments, but both rulings preceded Freeh's Sept. 6

report.

Freeh concluded that top members of claims administrator Patrick Juneau's staff engaged in conduct that was improper, unethical and possibly criminal, but said he didn't see a need to shut down settlement payments.

BP lawyers questioned whether Barbier would have authorized Juneau to begin processing and paying claims more than a year ago if he had known the settlement program would be "riven by conflicts of interest," lacked adequate anti-fraud controls and operated in a "grossly inefficient and over-costly manner."

"While BP does not presume to know for certain, it submits that the answer

most likely would have been an emphatic 'no,'" company lawyers wrote.

"Instead, the Settlement Program would have been instructed to fix its problems first, before being allowed to open its doors to the claims of class members." On Aug. 28, Barbier rejected BP's second request to suspend all payments to businesses and residents who claim the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico cost them money. The judge said an internal probe by Juneau's office didn't find credible evidence of fraud involving employees of the settlement program's Mobile, Alabama, claims center. Barbier also ruled that BP's separate complaints about alleged conflicts of interest inside the settlement pro-

gram didn't warrant a halt in the claims process.

Freeh's report said two private attorneys — Glen Lerner and Jon Andry — used Lionel Sutton, a lawyer on Juneau's staff, to expedite a claim by their firm for nearly \$8 million. In return, Sutton received more than \$40,000 in fees from payments on claims he had referred to their law firm before joining Juneau's staff, according to the report. Sutton resigned from Juneau's staff in June.

BP also noted that Freeh's report said BrownGreer, a vendor for the settlement program, has resisted efforts to control its costs. BrownGreer has averaged more than \$15 million per month in fees for its work on the program. □

US Financial Front:

American law opens financing of startups to crowds

JENNA WORTHAM

© 2013 New York Times

Entrepreneurs looking to the crowd to finance their big ideas just got a little extra help from the government. On Monday, federal legislation goes into effect to allow "emerging growth" companies - essentially, small startups - to ask for equity investments publicly, such as through social media sites or elsewhere on the Internet, without having to register the shares for public trading. Business owners will now be able to raise up to \$1 million a year this way.

The legislation is part of the 2012 "Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act," or JOBS Act, meant to encourage the growth of new businesses. Entrepreneurs say it will address a central problem they face: Raising significant capital often depends on having personal connections to investors. Under prior rules, this had to be done privately until a business was ready to enter the public markets.

"How many entrepreneurs are there across the U.S., even in the Midwest, who have these great ideas but no way to tap into that capital?" said Todd Dipaola, an entrepreneur in Venice, Calif. His startup, ForeFund Capital, is a would-be platform to let real estate entrepreneurs raise money from potential investors.

But others, including noted tech investors like Fred Wilson and Rick Webb, are less optimistic. They warn that by deregulating the raising of equity investment - at least in part - the legislation has the potential to unleash a cascade of abuses by luring investors to

what may be risky and untenable business ventures. And some critics have questioned whether it will even help entrepreneurs, because if a company raises more than \$500,000 it will have to produce audited financial records - a significant expense for a young business.

The JOBS Act has stirred up criticism for its revisions to other laws, including changes that allow hedge funds to advertise to the general public for the first time. In addition, Twitter's paradoxical post this month that it had filed secretive plans to go public was possible under the JOBS Act because the definition of the law deems Twitter, which has hundreds of employees and 200 million users, small enough to file an IPO without publicly disclosing details about the business. The original laws regulating how equity investments are raised date to the 1930s, and were put in place to "prevent the snake oil salesman from bankrupting the trusting and unassuming grandma," said Ajay K. Agrawal, a professor of entrepreneurship at the University of Toronto. With the new measures, he said, it will be a tough challenge to make sure any boomlet of crowdfunding ventures does not result in fraud and ordinary people being cheated.

Dipaola of ForeFund, and his partner, who is his brother, Neil Dipaola, said they planned to mitigate risk by doing background checks on the people they let post on their site to check for any fraudulent or criminal histories.

The new law does include safeguards. There is the \$1



Entrepreneur Todd Dipaola, right, at a staff meeting at ForeFund Capital, a startup platform that would let real estate entrepreneurs raise money from potential investors, in Venice Beach, Calif. New legislation will allow startups to ask for equity investments through the Web without having to register the shares for public trading, allowing business owners to raise up to \$1 million a year. (Monica Almeida/The New York Times)

million limit on how much entrepreneurs can raise each year, and they can take money only from accredited investors: people with a personal net worth of more than \$1 million or who

make more than \$200,000 in annual income. Eventually, however, another revision is expected to be approved that will lower the restrictions around the definition of an

accredited investor, meaning more of the public will have a chance of investing their own money into companies they believe could be as big and successful as Facebook or Twitter. □



ROLL THE DICE
AND MULTIPLY
YOUR WIN UP TO
\$1,200!

**\$100 HOURLY
DRAWINGS**
EVERY TUESDAY • 7PM-9PM

BEGIN EARNING ENTRIES
AUG. 10 • NOON - SEPT. 24 • 8:59PM
25 POINTS = 1 ENTRY

Every hour we'll select two winners to win **\$100** and roll the dice. Hit 5, 7 or even 12 and we'll multiply your win! We're letting the good times roll and it's your chance to win up to **\$1,200 SLOT PLAY & CASH!**

Management reserves the right to change or cancel promotions at their discretion. Must be 18 years of age or older. Must be a member of the Trop Advantage® Club to participate. Play responsibly www.gamblersanonymous.org.

BENLO CIGARS
Import & Export • We ship all over the world • Tel.: 5863555
Located in the Arowak Garden, next to Salt & Pepper,
Paparazzi and Tango Restaurant.

We are specialized in premium Cuban Cigars.
Opening hours: Mon. - Sat. 8:30am - 11:00pm
Sunday 9:00am - 11:00pm

Depending on purchase, we have discounts starting from 5% up to 20%.
With purchase of \$20 or more 1 FREE CIGAR
Bring this coupon for your free Cuban Cigar!

TROP CLUB & CASINO
J.E. IRAUSQUIN BLVD. 248
Aruba, Dutch Caribbean
troparuba.com

TROPICANA ENTERTAINMENT CASINOS | TROPICANACASINOS.COM

TROPICANA MONTBLEU TROPICANA TROPICANA BELLE OF BAYON ROUGE TROP

New signs of rising illegal immigration into US appear

HOPE YEN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of immigrants crossing the border illegally into the U.S. appears to be on the rise again after dropping during the recession. The total number of immigrants living in this country unlawfully edged up from 11.3 million in 2009 to 11.7 million last year, with those from countries other than Mexico at an apparent all-time high, according to a report released Monday by the Pew Research Center's Hispanic Trends Project.

The change is within the margin of error, and there will be a more precise census measure released later this year. Still, based in part on other factors such as increased U.S. border apprehensions, the sharp decline in illegal immigration from 2007-2009 has clearly bottomed out, with signs the numbers are now rising, Pew said.

Pew said that among the six states with the largest numbers of immigrants here illegally, only Texas had a consistent increase in illegal immigration from 2007 to 2011, due in part to its stronger economy. Its number was unchanged from 2011 to 2012. Two states — Florida and New Jersey — had an initial drop but then increases during the same 2007-2011 period. Three states — California, Illinois and New York — showed only declines.

"As a whole, with the recession ending, the decrease in illegal immigration has stopped," said Jeffrey Passel, a senior demographer at Pew.

The latest numbers on illegal immigration come as prospects for passage of a comprehensive U.S. immigration bill appear dim. A bill passed by the Democratic-controlled Senate and backed by the White House includes billions for border security as well as a 13-year path to citizenship for the 11 million immigrants already here illegally.

But most House Republicans have rejected this comprehensive approach, and the House Judiciary

Committee has moved forward with individual, single-issue immigration bills that could come to the floor sometime later this year or next. It is unclear whether the Republican-dominated House will ever pass legislation that could form the basis for a final deal with the Democratic-controlled Senate.

Passel noted that historically the level of illegal immigration has been

that has been used by the government and Pew for many years and is generally accepted.

Analysts said it was hard to predict whether immigrants in the country illegally could eventually exceed the record total of 12.2 million in 2007. Continued modest increases are possible, but another big surge like the one seen in the late 1990s and early 2000s isn't likely, due in part

here illegally peaked at 12.2 million in 2007, during the U.S. housing boom, and before the recession hit. It then dropped roughly 7 percent to 11.3 million in 2009, the first two-year decline in two decades, due to the weak U.S. economy which shrank construction and service-sector jobs. Much of the decline came as many Mexican workers who already were here saw diminishing job op-

unchanged since 2010. Mexicans now make up 52 percent of immigrants in the U.S. illegally, down from 57 percent in 2007.

—The level of illegal immigration from countries other than Mexico rose to a record 5.65 million, higher than the 5 million in 2009 and apparently surpassing the 2007 peak of 5.25 million. The record number in 2012 is a preliminary determination because of mar-



Women recite the "Oath for a House United" as they block an intersection outside the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill in Washington, to protest Congress' inaction on comprehensive and inclusive immigration reform. With immigration legislation stalled in Congress, advocates are intensifying pressure on the Obama administration to act unilaterally to stop deportations or grant legal status to some of the 11 million people now living in the U.S. illegally.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

closely tied to the strength of the U.S. economy and availability of jobs. Since 2009, the average U.S. unemployment rate has dropped from 9.3 percent to 8.1 percent last year, with signs of strength in the construction industry, which yields jobs generally attractive to newly arrived Latino immigrants.

The Pew analysis is based on census data through March 2012. Because the Census Bureau does not ask people about their immigration status, the estimate on illegal immigrants is derived largely by subtracting the estimated legal immigrant population from the total foreign-born population. It is a method

to demographic factors such as Mexico's aging workforce.

"Labor demand in the U.S. is still slack and wages are eroding, whereas there are jobs in Mexico and wages are slowly rising as labor force growth there decelerates," said Douglas Massey, a professor of sociology and public affairs at Princeton University who is co-director of the Mexican Migration Project. "The pressures for mass migration are diminishing for now, but who knows what kind of disasters lie ahead?"

Analyses of census data from the U.S. and Mexican governments show that the number of immigrants

opportunities and returned home.

Since then, the U.S. economy has shown some improvement, while public opinion regarding immigrants has shifted in some cases in favor of granting legal rights. For instance, some state legislatures this year have passed immigrant-friendly measures such as college tuition breaks and rights to driver's licenses, even as others enacted laws aimed at tightening the system.

A look at some immigration details, by the numbers:

—In all, the number of Mexicans here illegally stood at roughly 6 million last year, down from the 2007 peak of 6.9 million and largely

gins of error in the surveys.

—In past surveys, non-Mexican immigrants here illegally have come primarily from Central America, at roughly 15 percent; followed by South America, the Caribbean and other parts of Latin America at 12 percent; and Asia, at roughly 10 percent. The Obama administration has recently said that unrest and poverty in many Central American nations are a large factor behind illegal immigration into the U.S.

—Separately, U.S. Border Patrol data show a modest increase in the number of apprehensions at the Mexican border from 2011 to 2012, increasing to 365,000. □

Our famous open grill



Tango Restaurant is open 7 days a week from 4 pm till 11 pm
Indoor & outdoor seating - Large Terrace with live music

EARLY BIRD 3-Course Menu
Served between 4 pm and 7 pm
Not valid in combination with other offers
Special \$22.⁹⁵

Located at Arawak Garden, For reservations call (297) 586 8600 - www.tangoaruba.com




Merkel takes steps to form new German Government

ALISON SMALE
JACK EWING
© 2013 New York Times
BERLIN - Chancellor An-

said Monday that she did not expect German policy toward the eurozone to change, a statement that

clear how Merkel will govern in her third four-year term. Leaders of the Social Democrats, or SPD, said

last elections. But a significant minority moved to extremes. The right-wing Alternative

for Germany, which wants to abolish the euro, fell just short of the 5 percent parliamentary threshold, draining votes from the Free Democrats and probably causing that party's defeat. The Alternative party could be an annoyance to Merkel in the next four years and force her to pay more attention to the political right. Some former Free Democrat voters said they had defected out of disappointment that the party had not come out more strongly against euro rescue plans. "I voted for the FDP for 40 years," said Anneli Ute Gabanyi, a political scientist who lives in Berlin and was attending the Alternative for Germany gathering Sunday night. "I finally said no." □



German Chancellor and chairwoman of the Christian Democratic Party (CDU) Angela Merkel, smiles during a news conference after a party's board meeting in Berlin, Monday, Sept. 23, 2013. German Chancellor Angela Merkel may have won an impressive third general election but she faces a delicate and lengthy task in forming a new government as party leaders met Monday to map out their next steps.

(AP Photo/Matthias Schrader)

gela Merkel took steps on Monday to form a new government, a day after she scored a stunning personal triumph in German national elections that cemented her position as the most powerful politician in Europe.

Merkel became the only major European leader to be re-elected twice since the financial crisis of 2008, winning a strong popular endorsement for her mix of austerity and solidarity in managing the troubled eurozone. On Monday morning, Merkel met with leaders of her center-right Christian Democratic party to discuss strategy for forming a coalition government, most likely with the center-left Social Democrats, who finished second in the polling. The negotiations are likely to take weeks or months, extending a de facto moratorium on European decision-making that has been in effect during the German election campaign. Merkel

is likely to come as a disappointment to other European leaders who hoped she would be open to bolder action once the election was behind her. European policy "will continue in the same spirit as before," Merkel said. Her party's victory "was a very strong vote for a unified Europe," she said. The surprising show of strength for Merkel and the Christian Democrats - even their own polls had not suggested such a result - was just short of an absolute majority, according to preliminary results published on Monday. No chancellor has achieved an absolute majority since Konrad Adenauer in 1957. Merkel's Christian Democrats and their allies, the Christian Social Union in Bavaria, together won 41.5 percent of the popular vote, which translates into 311 of the 630 seats in Parliament. In 2009, the two parties together won 33.8 percent of the vote. For all her success, it is not

they were open to coalition talks but showed little enthusiasm. The two parties shared power during Merkel's first term, but she dominated the coalition and left the Social Democrats weaker.

"Ms. Merkel won with an impressive result," Peer Steinbrück, the Social Democrats' lead candidate, said Monday. "Now it is up to her to find a majority. The SPD is not going to force itself upon her." Merkel's allies for the past four years, the business-minded Free Democrats, lost their place in Parliament, missing the 5 percent cutoff for the first time since the party's founding after World War II.

The humiliating defeat of the Free Democrats was symptomatic of simmering discontent at the fringes of German politics. A larger majority of voters chose the consensus and stability offered by the two main parties, both of which gained votes compared with the

25 SEPTEMBER 2013



50% DISCOUNT

hunkemöller
PASEO HERENCIA MALL

red sail sports *Caribbean Sail*

Enjoy the sunset and a fantastic Caribbean buffet dinner aboard our catamaran. The sail includes steel drum music and open bar.

Tuesday from 5:30 to 8:00 pm

Book now! www.redsailaruba.com or by phone: (+297) 586-1603



Egypt Brotherhood ban opens way to wider crackdown

MAGGIE MICHAEL

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian court on Monday ordered the banning of the Muslim Brotherhood and the confiscation of its assets, opening the door for authorities to dramatically accelerate a crackdown on the extensive network of schools, hospitals, charities and other social institutions that was the foundation of the group's political power. Security forces have already been moving against the Brotherhood's social networks, raiding schools and hospitals run by the group since the military's July 3 ouster of Islamist President Mohamed Morsi.

The sweep points to the ambitions of Egypt's new leaders to go beyond the arrests of top Brotherhood figures to strike a long-term, even mortal, blow to the group by hitting the pillars of its grassroots organization. Doing so could cripple the group's political prospects far into the future. "The plan is to drain the sources of funding, break the joints of the group, and the dismantle podiums from which they deliver their message," said one senior security official,

speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss security agencies' intentions. Blurring its political and religious nature, the Brotherhood vaulted to election dominance in large part because of its multiple business interests that provide funding, as well as schools, mosques and powerful social institutions providing cheap medical care and services to millions of impoverished Egyptians. As a result, after the 2011 ouster of autocrat Hosni Mubarak, the Brotherhood swept parliament elections and lifted Morsi into office as the country's first freely elected leader.

"The hospitals and schools are among the most powerful tools to garner support, which would be translated into votes," said Ahmed Ban, a researcher and former Brotherhood member. Schools give the group "a large pool to recruit new cadres at a very stage of their lives," he said. Hospitals send the message that "we are offering good and cheap services, and we are the good Muslims." In election seasons, Brotherhood hospitals, joined by candidates, would send medical convoys offering free care to villages

where state services are absent. The past two years, the Brotherhood's political party, the Freedom and Justice Party, held markets selling reduced-price food and clothes.

Outlawed for most of 85-year existence — with successive regimes alternating between repression and

headquarters and forming a political party. Ironically, that made parts of its structure more visible. The senior security official said intelligence and the National Security agency have been working through banks, oversight agencies and state records to compile a database of Broth-

gives authorities a legal basis to move against those assets.

The sweeping verdict banned the group as well as "any institution branching out of it or ... receiving financial support from it," which legal experts said could also force the disbanding of the Freedom and Justice Party. It also ordered the group's assets and property confiscated. The court's explanation gave few specific legal grounds, beyond saying the group used Islam "as a cover" while it "violated citizen's rights." It gave a broad political denunciation, saying that during Morsi's year in office, "Egyptians found only repression and arrogance."

One leading Brotherhood member, Ibrahim Moneir, called the verdict "totalitarian." The Brotherhood "will remain — with God's help, not by the orders by the judiciary of (military chief Abdel-Fattah) el-Sisi," he told Qatari-based Al-Jazeera Mubasher Misr TV.

The ruling means any member risks arrest, a return to Mubarak's days when the typical charge for arresting Brothers was "belonging to a banned group." □



An Egyptian woman and her daughter walk in front of Al-Omraniyah hospital, run by the Muslim Brotherhood's Islamic Medical Association, in Cairo, Egypt. An Egyptian court ordered a ban of the Muslim Brotherhood and confiscation of its assets Monday, Sept. 23, 2013.

(AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

tolerance — the Brotherhood built its networks largely underground. That made it difficult for authorities to track, since many institutions were registered under individuals' names. After Mubarak's ouster, the group emerged to work openly, opening a formal

erhood members and assets. An earlier court ruling froze the assets of 24 senior figures, including deputy head Khairat el-Shater, a wealthy businessman seen as the group's top financier and strongman. Monday's court ruling, if upheld over any appeals,

11 officers killed as Taliban strike Afghan border post

ROD NORDLAND

© 2013 New York Times

LASHKAR GAH, Afghanistan

- A Taliban ambush on a border post in southern Afghanistan killed 11 police officers, an Afghan police official said Monday. The attack took place against a series of border checkpoints in the Shorabak District of Kandahar province. "Taliban used heavy weapons against our forces, and it was a surprise and sudden attack," said Ziaurrahman

Durani, the spokesman for the Kandahar province police. The insurgents then escaped back across the border to Pakistan, where they were believed to be based, Durani said.

The attack took place on Sunday but was not disclosed until Monday.

Also Sunday, in an unrelated episode in eastern Afghanistan, two coalition soldiers were killed by an improvised explosive device, according to a statement

released on Monday by the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force. The soldiers' nationality and other details about the episode were not disclosed. The attack Sunday on the border police officers came less than a week after insurgents ambushed a police convoy in Badakhshan province in northern Afghanistan, reportedly killing 10 and taking 16 prisoner. Casualties among Afghan security forces, par-

ticularly the police, have sharply risen this year. In July, 23 border police officers were reportedly killed when Taliban insurgents overran several remote border posts in Nuristan province in northeastern Afghanistan. Afghan officials regularly complain that Pakistan allows its side of the border to be used as a sanctuary from which to mount cross-border attacks on Afghan targets. On Sunday in Kunduz province,

also in the north, Taliban insurgents ambushed a motorized rickshaw carrying an Afghan Local Police officer, his wife and their newborn child. The woman had just given birth in the clinic in Imam Sahib District. According to the district governor, Amanuddin Qureshi, the insurgents killed the police officer and his wife, but spared the newborn, handing him to the rickshaw driver, who was also unharmed. □

JOLLY PIRATES

SAIL, SNORKEL, SWIM & SWING!
DAILY 9:30am-1:30pm \$57pp
Visit 3 Great sites with BBQ,
Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!

AFTERNOON SNORKEL
DAILY 2:30-5:30pm \$38pp
Shorter version with Open
Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!

★ SUNSET SAIL
Mon & Fri 5-7pm \$30pp
Open Bar included
& Ropeswing!
★ additional days upon request/seasonal

Tickets available at Jolly Pirates Shop at MooMba Beach. Boarding at MooMba Beach- by the high rise hotels between Holiday Inn and Marriott Resorts. Offer not valid in combination with other discount offers. Valid for direct telephone reservations ONLY - Present coupon at boarding

586 8107/592 7858

Save \$10 per couple/per coupon for morning cruise Save \$5 per couple/per coupon for afternoon cruise

EU says Iran, 6 key nations to hold nuclear talks

EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iran's new foreign minister will join talks with six key nations trying to rein in the Islamic Republic's nuclear program later this week at the United Nations, the European Union's foreign policy chief said Monday. Thursday's meeting on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly would be the first in six years between a U.S. secretary of state and an Iranian foreign minister. It comes amid signs of a possible thaw in US-Iranian diplomatic relations, which were cut after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Catherine Ashton, the chief nuclear negotiator, told reporters after meeting Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif that she saw "energy and determination" for talks with the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany to move forward. On Twitter, the U.S.-educated Zarif called the meeting with Ashton "positive" and

added, "Need new start under new circumstances." The meeting Thursday between the Western powers and Iran will be the first since April, when discussions on how to reduce fears that Tehran might use its nuclear technology for weapons stalled at a meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan. U.S. officials said Secretary of State John Kerry will attend. It would mark the first meeting between the top U.S. and Iranian diplomats since U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met with Iranian Foreign Minister Manoucher Mottaki in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh in May 2007. The election of Iran's new president, Hassan Rouhani, considered a relative moderate in the country's hard-line clerical regime, has sparked speculation about possible movement on the nuclear issue. Rouhani said last month that the foreign ministry — not the Supreme National Security Council

— will lead nuclear talks with world powers, a shift away from security officials being in control. Rouhani is scheduled to address the U.N. on Tuesday. U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the United States hopes the new Iranian government "will engage substantively with the international community to reach a diplomatic solution to Iran's nuclear program and to cooperate fully" with the International Atomic Ener-

gy Agency in its investigation. "We remain ready to work with Iran should the Rouhani administration choose to engage seriously," she said. Ashton said she and her team will meet with Zarif again in October to follow up on Thursday's meeting to continue their discussion on reviving long-stalled negotiations. "We had a good and constructive discussion," she said of her half-hour meeting with Zarif. "We didn't talk about the details of what we would do. The purpose of this meeting was to establish how we would go forward." The U.N. Security Council has imposed four rounds of sanctions against Iran because of concerns it is seeking to develop nuclear weapons and its refusal to suspend uranium enrichment.

gy Agency in its investigation. "We remain ready to work with Iran should the Rouhani administration choose to engage seriously," she said. Ashton said she and her team will meet with Zarif again in October to follow up on Thursday's meeting to continue their discussion on reviving long-stalled negotiations. "We had a good and constructive discussion," she said of her half-hour meeting with Zarif. "We didn't talk about the details of what we would do. The purpose of this meeting was to establish how we would go forward." The U.N. Security Council has imposed four rounds of sanctions against Iran because of concerns it is seeking to develop nuclear weapons and its refusal to suspend uranium enrichment.



Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, second right, reviews military forces marching during an annual military parade in Tehran, Iran. Iran's new foreign minister will join talks with six key nations trying to rein in the Islamic Republic's nuclear program later this week at the United Nations, the European Union's foreign policy chief said Monday.

(AP Photo/Ebrahim Noroozi)

Venezuela:

3 soldiers arrested in drug flight

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's interior minister says two National Guard sergeants and one lieutenant have been arrested for alleged involvement in the smuggling of 1.4 metric tons of cocaine to Paris on an Air France flight in three dozen suitcases. Minister Miguel Rodriguez told state TV that the three men were arrested Sunday and that additional arrests were expected, with airline

workers suspected. French officials had announced on Saturday the discovery of the narcotics in luggage without baggage tickets indicating their owner. The flight had arrived in Paris on Sept. 10. Venezuela has become a major transit point for U.S.- and European-destined cocaine in recent years with Washington accusing several senior Venezuelan military officials of involvement.

EXCELSIOR CASINO

EXCELSIOR CASINO, located at Holiday Inn
The most complete gambling experience!!

- ★ POKER
- ★ SLOT MACHINES
- ★ BLACK JACK

- ★ ROULETTE TABLE
- ★ CRAPS
- ★ BINGO

Lady Luck is waiting for you at EXCELSIOR CASINO!
For more information give us a call (297) 586-7777

TEN DOLLARS

1 coupon per person per day

MATCH PLAY

GOOD ONLY AT BLACK JACK

EXCELSIOR CASINO LOCATED IN THE HOLIDAY INN ARUBA

TEN DOLLARS

Russian government sells 49% stake in maker of AK-47s

ANDREW E. KRAMER

© 2013 New York Times

MOSCOW - A Russian government-owned conglomerate announced plans on Monday to sell to two private investors just under half of the company that makes Kalashnikov assault rifles.

The company, Izhevsk Machine Works, has made AK-47s, which are the world's most distributed firearm, since shortly after World War II. And despite years of deep financial crisis, the company has been seen as a crown jewel of Russia's military industrial complex. Izhevsk returned to profitability in recent years in large part because of robust sales to American civilians.

The government had been searching for investors to share the burden of modernizing the sprawling machine shops and integrating the business, known as Izhmash, with other small arms makers as part of a broader overhaul of military enterprises, an important sector in the Russian economy.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, looks at guns at the Izhevsk Machine Works factory in Izhevsk, Russia, Sept. 18, 2013. A Russian government-owned conglomerate announced plans on Monday to sell to two private investors just under half of the Izhevsk Machine Works company, which makes Kalashnikov assault rifles.

(Michael Klimentyev/The New York Times)

In the deal announced Monday, the two Russian investors are buying 49 percent of Izhmash and four related enterprises that make pistols, cartridge cases and machine tools for the firearms industry for 2.5 billion rubles, or about \$80 million. The investors are Aleksei Krivoruchko, a part owner of suburban trains linking Moscow to its airports, and Andrei Bokarev, who has a background in Siberian coal mining. The controlling stake of 51 percent will remain with the state-owned conglomerate, Russian Technologies, an umbrella organization President Vladimir Putin established in 2007 to revive the military industry, in part by attracting investors. The sale culminates the transformation of a Russian military enterprise that adapted to a civilian clientele, and also testifies to the money to be made in the gun market in the United States, where ownership laws are more lenient than in many other countries.

Because China and former members of the Soviet

Union make so many bootlegs of Kalashnikov assault rifles, producing the gun of choice for a broad spectrum of people who carry firearms was never good business for Izhmash until sales to relatively wealthy American buyers picked up.

Kalashnikov-pattern rifles are colloquially known as AK-47s - a name derived from the Russian word for automatic and the surname of the inventor, Gen. Mikhail T. Kalashnikov, as well as the year the first prototype appeared.

In an interview in 2012, the former factory director, Maksim Kuzyuk, described sales in the United States as integral to the business; about 40 percent of the factory's output went to gun buyers there, about the same number as bought by the Russian military. The United States is the world's largest importer of small arms, bringing in about \$1.2 billion worth of guns in 2011, according to the Small Arms Survey, a standard reference of weapons trading globally. □

Eurozone recovery seen picking up pace

PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Further evidence emerged Monday that the economic recovery across the 17 European Union countries that use the euro is picking up and that unemployment may be peaking.

The composite purchasing managers' index — a gauge of business activity across the manufacturing and services sectors published by financial information company Markit — rose for the sixth month running to a 27-month high of 52.1 points in September from 51.5 in August.

That's further above the 50 threshold that indicates expansion and is the latest indicator to suggest the eurozone economic recovery is gathering pace. The rise was also bigger than anticipated — the consensus of analysts' forecasts was for a far more modest rise to

51.7.

The increase was driven by faster growth of new business, while new orders increased for the second month running and rose at their fastest rate since the middle of 2011.

The eurozone is badly in need of economic growth following its longest recession since the single European currency was launched in 1999. In the second quarter of 2013, the eurozone grew by 0.3 percent compared with the previous three-month period following six straight quarterly declines that pushed unemployment to a record of 12.1 percent.

Analysts said the survey was particularly encouraging because the signs of the economic revival were not just confined to Germany, Europe's biggest and most robust economy.

"Although the upturn continued to be led by Ger-

many, France saw the first increase in business since early 2012 and elsewhere growth was the strongest since early 2011," said Chris Williamson, Markit's chief economist. "Employment continued to fall, though it is reassuring that the rate of job losses eased to only a very modest pace, suggesting that employment could start rising again soon."

Despite the improving data backdrop and the decrease in tensions in financial markets over Europe's debt crisis, the eurozone economy still has a long way to go to fully recovery. Mario Draghi, the president of the European Central Bank, was cautiously upbeat when addressing lawmakers at the European Parliament in Brussels on Monday. Though he confirmed there was a "slow recovery" in the third quarter, he said it still "needs to be



A sample of the proposed new British banknotes made of a polymer, five pound and ten pound notes held for an arranged photograph during a news conference at the Bank of England in London.

(AP Photo / Chris Ratcliffe)

firmly established."

He highlighted the need for lawmakers across Europe to set up a joint mechanism to unwind or restructure failing banks, part of a regional banking union. That would increase confidence in the banks and reduce fears that governments will face steep costs to bail them out in the future.

Tom Rogers, a senior economic adviser at Ernst & Young, said "more needs to be done in the coming months to nurture the recovery."

He also highlighted the need for progress in creating the banking union, which would allow competitive firms in countries like Greece and Spain better access to finance. □



Aruba's One and Only Local Market is Now Open!

ORANJESTAD – If you want to feel the true local flavor of Aruba, with food, arts, farmers market, culture, music, gifts, souvenirs all in one place, the Local Market is the place to be! Open from Monday thru Saturday from 9am-6pm, come and see our Local Handmade Crafts and so much more!

There is free parking, local painting, local music, cigars, sunglasses, and the like, as well as refreshments, including fresh co-



conut water, fresh juices, ice cream, and so much more.

As the Local Market catches on, there will also be a food festival on Sundays. There is also a Farmers Market which sells only local

food.

The Fresh Farmers Market is open to guests daily from 8am-6pm!

So don't think twice and come and visit us. We have everything in one single place. Enjoy! □



Divi Resorts celebrates tremendous Housekeeping Week!



PALM BEACH - Last week the Housekeeping Department of Divi, Tamarijn, Divi Dutch Village and Divi Phoenix celebrated a tremendous housekeeping week.

They began the week with a beautiful service and breakfast for all Housekeeping staff to show appreciation for their work. Throughout the week other fun and exciting activities took place, including a bus tour, dance contests and a fun party on the beach!

The week closed with a sweet day on De Palm Island where Divi's Housekeeping team and their families had a wonderful time with fun in the sun. The Management of Divi Resorts would like to offer their sincerest words of appreciation for the Housekeeping Staff and their hard work all year long! □



Beauty On The Beach

Jennifer Smith

Has been coming to Aruba since 1995 and has a timeshare at The Divi Village. She loves Aruba for the wonderful people, and it's beaches.

WINNER OF TRIP ADVISOR'S CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE 2012
Best Lobster House and International Cuisine's Restaurant

The Blue Lobster
INTERNATIONAL CUISINE & LOBSTER HOUSE
Phone: 586-3843



At Bugaloe: Aruban Fresh Fish Right Off The Coast!

PALM BEACH - Fresher than Fresh, is what you are served in the popular Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill, located at De Palm Pier, between the RIU Palace Hotel and The Raddison Hotel. Mondays will no longer be just another Monday. No! It's Crazy Fish Monday at Bugaloe! Beautiful colorful platter of exquisite fish, yellow rice and rich vegetables is what you will be served from Chef Hernandez' kitchen

every Monday. Whether choosing Fried Fish Basket for only \$15 or a delicious Red Snapper for \$20, you wish it was Monday every day! Bugaloe is known for fun and craziness, so it was only logical Chef Marc Hernandez likes to go wild when it comes to his cooking. Caught in the morning, served at night is the true Bugaloe way, maybe this explains its popularity from the start. Crazy Fish Monday is served

from 5.30 p.m. till 10 p.m. Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is open daily from 9 a.m. till midnight. Start your day of right with a delicious cappuccino, or walk in to enjoy a casual lunch in between sunbathing. A few nights a week Bugaloe is host to some of the best live bands of Aruba, while you are savoring dinner and enjoying the beautiful Aruba Sunset! Don't forget to make one hour in the day even happier at Bugaloe's dai-



ly Happy Hour from 5 till 6 p.m. Reservations are not necessary, just follow your hips to the music and the fun and smiles saluting you! ☐



2X

Double Point Tuesday!

Earn Double Points All Day Long!

Use your Alhambra Advantage card to play our slots from 10am to 4am and we'll *Double* your points for *Double* Cash Back!

— New —
Members Receive
\$10 FREE SLOT PLAY
when you sign up at the Advantage Club!

Where Aruba goes to play!

Open daily 10am to 4am • J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 • 583.5000 • www.casinoalhambra.com
Must be an Alhambra Advantage member. All programs and promotions are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice.

Visit The Shops at Alhambra Casino offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets, Salon and Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

LIVE MUSIC

Tuesdays in Fusion 8p-11p

The Cove

Now Open 6p-2a

Alhambra Casino's Newest Restaurant & Lounge serving a variety of Soup, Salads, Sandwiches and more!

Alhambra

CASINO AND SHOPS

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15 BIG TWIN ARUBA
- 16 DRIFTWOOD RES.
- 17 DE PALM ISLAND
- 18 ZEEROVER RES.
- 19 CHARLIES BAR
- 20 COSTA RIBA RES.



Aruba



IMPORTANT TRAFFIC SIGNS

- One way road
- Right of way ahead
- All traffic prohibited
- No stopping or parking
- One way road Enter only this side
- Right of way road
- End of right of way road
- Right of way at intersection
- Oncoming traffic has right of way
- Stop. Right of way ahead
- Do not pass
- No Left turn
- No Right turn



Oracle wins again to stay alive in America's Cup

BERNIE WILSON
AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— Skipper Jimmy Spithill accelerated his 72-foot catamaran off the starting line and steered defending champion Oracle Team USA to its fifth straight win against Emirates Team New Zealand on Monday to stay alive in the America's Cup.

The 34-year-old Spithill and his brain trust of Olympic gold medalists — British tactician Ben Ainslie and Australian strategist Tom Slingsby — kept the American-backed boat ahead the whole way around the five-leg course on San Francisco Bay for a 33-second victory.

Oracle's remarkable comeback from what seemed like certain defeat has closed the Kiwis' lead to 8-6 and no doubt has all of New Zealand on edge.

Team New Zealand has been on match point since Wednesday, only to watch Spithill and Oracle's improved 72-foot catamaran sail ahead in a determined attempt to keep the oldest trophy in interna-

tional sports.

Oracle Team USA, owned by software tycoon Larry Ellison, has won eight races. But it was docked two points for illegally modifying boats in warmup regattas called the America's Cup World Series, so it needs three more wins to keep the Auld Mug.

The regatta would be tied if Oracle hadn't been handed the harshest penalties in the 162-year history of the America's Cup. Besides being docked two points, Oracle wing sail trimmer Dirk de Ridder was disqualified from the regatta and replaced by 24-year-old Kyle Langford four days before the match started.

Because Race 16 was delayed a half-hour due to light wind, Race 17 was postponed until Tuesday. That gives Team New Zealand another day to ponder what they need to do to avoid a collapse, and gives Oracle more time to keep refining its fast cat.

Continued on Page 22



Oracle Team USA sails toward the Golden Gate Bridge during the 16th race of the America's Cup sailing event against Emirates Team New Zealand Monday, Sept. 23, 2013, in San Francisco. Associated Press



Djokovic reaches 100th week at No. 1 in rankings

LONDON (AP) — Novak Djokovic is marking his 100th week at No. 1 in the ATP rankings.

The 26-year-old Serb is

Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, reacts after a point to Rafael Nadal, of Spain, during the men's singles final of the 2013 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Monday, Sept. 9, 2013, in New York. Associated Press

the ninth player to reach the milestone, joining Andre Agassi (101 weeks), Rafael Nadal (102), Bjorn Borg (109), John McEnroe (170), Jimmy Connors (268), Ivan Lendl (270), Pete Sampras (286) and Roger Federer (302). Djokovic reached No. 1

in July 2011. He lost the top spot to Federer for three months in 2012 but regained it in November of that year. Djokovic's bid to finish the year at No. 1 for a third straight time is under serious threat from Nadal. Djokovic has 11,120

points, while Nadal has 10,860.

Both are entered in next week's China Open, where Djokovic will be defending his title and Nadal has no points to defend. Nadal can get to No. 1 for the first time since July 3, 2011, by reaching the final. □

Iowa awarded 2017 Solheim Cup

LUKE MEREDITH
AP Sports Writer

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The LPGA's biggest tournament is coming to Iowa.

The LPGA announced Monday that the 2017 Solheim Cup will be held at the Des Moines Golf and Country Club.

The biennial contest between teams of European and American golfers was held in Colorado last month with Europe winning 18-10. The Solheim Cup, which features 12 golfers on each team in a match-play format, will be in Germany in 2015 before going to Iowa. LPGA commissioner Michael Whan said that Iowa's history of supporting major golf events — most notably the 250,000 fans the course drew for the U.S. Senior Open Championship in 1999 — played a key role in its selection.

"I believe in 2017, we're going to blow the standard

out of the water of what a Solheim Cup should be," Whan said. "That's going to come from a course. That's going to come from a city. That's going to come from a state. Most importantly, that's going to come from a people that respect the game and respect the country."

The Solheim Cup will be arguably the most prestigious golf tournament ever held in central Iowa.

In addition to the U.S. Senior Open Championship in 1999, Metro Des Moines has hosted a Champions Tour event, the Principal Charity Classic, since 2001.

Though that tournament moved from Glen Oaks Country Club in West Des Moines to the Wakonda Club near downtown Des Moines this year, it remained among the more well-attended events on the senior tour.

The PGA makes a yearly stop in Silvis, Ill., just across

the Mississippi River, for the John Deere Classic — although that the field for that event is typically thin because it falls a week before the British Open.

"We look forward to getting to know you much better, and we're really excited about the fact that you're coming back in 2017. I'm delighted that our state will be the home of the 2017 Solheim Cup," Iowa governor Terry Branstad said. "Iowans are well-known for their generosity, their strong sense of community and their welcoming attitude." Officials broke the news with all the American pomp and circumstance it could muster.

Dozens of school children dressed up in red, white and blue — many with stars and stripes hats on their heads — and the few hundred people that showed up were all handed small American flags.



Lexi Thompson laughs after hitting a ball off a tee Monday, Sept. 23, 2013, in West Des Moines, Iowa, following an announcement by officials that the Solheim Cup, the LPGA's biggest tournament, is coming to Iowa.

Associated Press

Whan topped it off by tossing Solheim Cup hats to fans as they chanted "USA! USA!"

The jingoistic theme had a very specific purpose. The LPGA is hoping that Iowans turn out in record numbers — and treat it more like a football game than a golf tournament.

"I don't really care what players are playing on the team. I don't care what

media shows up," Whan said. "Just do us one favor. Do these players one favor. Throw away the 'Quiet Please' signs. Paint your face. Get crazy." □



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing.

A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean.

What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com

Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



Braves clinch NL East title

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The Atlanta Braves clinched their first NL East title since 2005, then rode two homers by Andrelton Simmons to a 5-2 victory over the Chicago Cubs that touched off a wild party in the cramped visitors' clubhouse at Wrigley Field.

NL CapsulesThe game was in the sixth when Washington lost 4-2 to Miami in a doubleheader opener, giving the Braves the division championship. There were a few high-fives in Atlanta's dugout when the Marlins won, and a couple of Braves fans did the tomahawk chop in the stands. Simmons hit a solo drive in the fourth and a two-run shot in the eighth, giving him 17 homers on the year. Julio Teheran (13-8) struck out seven over six innings of one-run ball. Edwin Jackson (8-17), who leads the major leagues in losses, allowed three runs and eight hits in six-plus innings.

BREWERS 6, CARDINALS 4 MILWAUKEE (AP) — Norichika Aoki scored three times and doubled home a run as Milwaukee beat sloppy St. Louis hours after the Cardinals clinched a play-off berth.

Wily Peralta (11-15) gave

up five hits and walked five in five-plus innings for the Brewers. The Cardinals put the go-ahead run at the plate with two outs in the ninth, but closer Jim Henderson got slugger Matt Adams to strike out to end the game and earn his 26th save.

St. Louis learned earlier it was assured of at least an NL wild card after Washington lost its doubleheader opener against Miami. However, the Cardinals weren't sharp on the field. Starter Joe Kelly (9-5) had one of two errors in the Brewers' two-run second.

REDS 11, PIRATES 3 PITTSBURGH (AP) — Rookie Billy Hamilton got three hits and stole two more bases as Cincinnati tied Pittsburgh for the NL wild-card lead at 89-67.

Jay Bruce hit a three-run double and Todd Frazier followed with a homer that capped a five-run burst in the first against Jeff Locke (10-7).

Bronson Arroyo (14-11) allowed three runs and five hits in five innings to win for the first time since Aug. 24. MARLINS 4, NATIONALS 2, 1st GAME; NATIONALS 5, MARLINS 4, 2nd GAME WASHINGTON (AP) — Giancarlo Stanton and



Atlanta Braves' Andrelton Simmons hits a solo home run against the Chicago Cubs during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Chicago, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013.

Associated Press

Christian Yelich homered for the Marlins in a doubleheader opener after the Nationals honored retiring manager Davey Johnson with a 15-minute pregame celebration.

Tom Koehler (4-10) allowed two runs and three hits in six innings, and Steve Cishek pitched a perfect ninth to tie a team record by converting his 27th consecutive save chance.

Dan Haren (9-14) lost to Miami for the third time this year, giving up three runs and eight hits in six innings. Wilson Ramos' ninth-inning grounder bounced off a leg of third baseman Chris Coghlan for a game-ending error that allowed pinch-runner Eury Perez to score from third for Washington.

The Nationals earned a split in the doubleheader that left them five games back in the NL wild-card race with six games left.

Rafael Soriano (3-3) pitched a scoreless ninth inning to win Washington's regular-season home finale, and Denard Span drove in three runs.

Jayson Werth off Sam Dyson (0-2) leading off the ninth, and Perez pinch ran and stole third with one out. Coming back from right forearm tightness, Stephen Strasburg allowed three runs and six hits in six innings and left with a 4-3 lead. Stanton hit a tying double off Tyler Clippard in the eighth.

METS 4, PHILLIES 3 PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Wil-

fredo Tovar hit a two-run, seventh-inning single in his major league debut, putting the Mets ahead for good at 3-2.

LaTroy Hawkins earned his 100th career save and 12th this season by striking out Jimmy Rollins to end it. Trying to stop a streak of four straight fourth-place finishes in the NL East, the Mets completed a three-game sweep and tied the Phillies for third.

Carlos Torres (4-5) allowed two runs and seven hits in six innings to beat Cliff Lee (14-7), who gave up three runs — two earned — and eight hits in seven innings. Before the game, the Phillies said they were removing the interim tag on manager Ryne Sandberg. □

Wembley keen on London NFL franchise, Super Bowl



Silhouetted people walk beneath flags draped across Regent Street for the forthcoming NFL game between the Steelers and Vikings in London, Monday, Sept. 23, 2013. The Pittsburgh Steelers are to play the Minnesota Vikings at Wembley stadium in London on Sunday, Sept. 29 in a regular season NFL game.

Associated Press

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — The famous arch rising above Wembley Stadium is becoming an increasingly familiar sight for NFL fans as the London venue becomes the trusted vehicle for the league's annual efforts to drum up more overseas interest. Ahead of the first of two regular season games to be played at Wembley this year, it's clear that stadium officials want to see a lot more of the NFL as well.

With the league expanding its annual International Series from one game to

two this year, the usual questions are arising about whether there'll one day be a permanent franchise based in the British capital. And while the league says any such decision is still several years away, Wembley officials say they'll be ready if the day comes. Squeezing in a full slate of home games on Sundays shouldn't interfere with the stadium's commitments to host England's national team fixtures and other events, Wembley's managing director Roger Maslin said Monday.

"Absolutely we can (do

it)," Maslin said in an executive box overlooking the Wembley pitch. "I am absolutely confident if (NFL Commissioner) Roger Goodell wanted to have a franchise here we could absolutely deliver on it."

Known for being England's national football stadium, Wembley started staging regular NFL games in 2007. On Sunday, the Minnesota Vikings play the Pittsburgh Steelers there, before the Jacksonville Jaguars face the San Francisco 49ers on Oct. 27.

Continued on next page

**TODAY!
HAPPY HOUR
AT BUGALOE! 5-6 PM**



*Special prices on Balashi,
Balashi Chill, Mojito
& many more!*

Palm Beach at De Palm Pier | www.bugaloe.com
T: (297) 586 2233 | info@bugaloe.com



A's win second straight AL West crown

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, California (AP)

— Coco Crisp hit a three-run homer, and Daric Barton and Jed Lowrie each had solo shots as the Oakland Athletics wrapped up their second straight AL West title while overpowering the Minnesota Twins 11-7 Sunday. AL Capsules: The A's, who had MLB's fourth-lowest opening day payroll at about \$65 million, clinched their 16th division crown and 25th postseason appearance when Texas lost 4-0 at Kansas City earlier.

Sonny Gray (4-3) gave up four runs and seven hits in five innings.

Oswaldo Arcia homered and drove in six runs for Minnesota. Cole De Vries (0-1) was the loser.

RAYS 3, ORIOLES 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida

(AP) — Enny Romero combined with five relievers on a three-hitter in his major league debut, two days watching Tampa Bay's 18-inning win at home in the Dominican Republic and tweeting he was ready to pitch the following afternoon.

The 22-year-old left-hander allowed one hit and four walks in 4 2-3 shutout innings. Brandon Gomes (3-1) followed and struck out

Manny Machado with a runner on second.

Tampa Bay remained a half-game ahead of Cleveland in the AL wild-card

INDIANS 9, ASTROS 2

CLEVELAND (AP) — Mi-

chael Brantley and Michael Bourn had two RBIs apiece as Cleveland be-

fell to a major league-worst 51-105. Erik Bedard (4-12) lost for the ninth time in 10 decisions.

ROYALS 4, RANGERS 0



Oakland Athletics' Coco Crisp, right, is congratulated by third base coach Mike Gallego after hitting a three-run home run in the first inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

race, and Texas dropped 1½ games behind the Indians for the second berth, with Kansas City trailing the Indians by 3½, the Yankees by four and Baltimore by 4½ entering the final week. Scott Feldman (5-5) gave up three runs and six hits in 6 1-3 innings.

came the first team since the 1961 Yankees to sweep six four-game series in the same season.

Carlos Santana homered for the Indians and Corey Kluber (10-5) dodged trouble throughout 5 1-3 innings. Houston lost its season-high ninth straight and

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)

— Justin Maxwell ended Kansas City's home season with a two-out grand slam in the 10th off former Royals All-Star closer Joakim Soria.

Eric Hosmer hit a two-strike double leading off the 10th against Neal Cotts (5-3).

Soria intentionally walked Billy Butler, and an infield single by Salvador Perez loaded the bases.

Tim Collins (3-6) pitched a perfect 10th.

GIANTS 2, YANKEES 1

NEW YORK (AP) — After honoring Mariano Rivera in a pregame ceremony and celebrating Andy Pettitte's last regular-season home start, the Yankees saw their AL wild-card hopes dim.

But Ehre Adrianza tied the score in the sixth with his first career home run. Leaving to standing ovations and a curtain call after Pedro Sandoval's leadoff double in the eighth, Pettitte (10-11) watched Tony Abreu hit a go-ahead double off David Robertson.

New York is danger of missing the playoffs for just the second time in 19 years. Javier Lopez (4-2) relieved Yusmeiro Petit with two on and one out in the seventh and struck out two, and Sergio Romo pitched a hitless ninth for his 36th save.

In other AL games it was Cleveland 9, Houston 2; San Francisco 2, N.Y. Yankees 1; Chicago White Sox 6, Detroit 3; Boston 5, Toronto 2; Tampa Bay 3, Baltimore 1; Kansas City 4, Texas 0, 10 innings; Seattle 3, L.A. Angels 2; and Oakland 11, Minnesota 7. □

Continued from Previous Page

It is the first of four games over four seasons in London for the Jaguars, raising the prospect of the Floridian side one day uprooting to London where owner Shad Khan bought Premier League club Fulham in July.

The two 2013 games sold out within hours, which Maslin said is a sign of the rising popularity of the NFL

in Britain.

The "core fan base" in the U.K. is now more than 2 million, according to Chris Parsons, the NFL's senior vice president of international. That's more than double the figure when the league first brought regular-season games to Wembley in 2007, but still not high enough for a franchise here to be sustainable. "We've doubled our fan base in the

last three-and-a-half to four years," Parsons said in an interview. "I'd like to see that at least double again in the next three or four years. That would put us among the top five sports in the UK in terms of core fan base." While having a full-time franchise in London is still "clearly an option" for the NFL, Parsons cautioned that there are no immediate plans. "There are sev-

eral steps we need to continue to take before we get to that deeper conversation," Parsons said. "We'd like to play more games every year as we move forward. ... Once you've got a sizeable fan base, the options are then much more available to you to do certain things." And even if it doesn't get a full-time franchise, Wembley has its sights set on another major

target — hosting a Super Bowl. That is, if the league ever decides to move its showcase game abroad. "They are very progressive organization so long, long, long term they might consider (a Super Bowl in London) but it's a hell of a call," Maslin said of the NFL. "Absolutely ... if they bring it anywhere in the world we want it here at Wembley." □

Shaquille O'Neal joining Kings ownership group



In this April 2, 2013, file photo, former Los Angeles Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal gestures during ceremonies to retire his jersey during halftime of an NBA game between the Lakers and Dallas Mavericks, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

ANTONIO GONZALEZ AP Sports Writer

The larger-than-life figure that teased and tormented the Sacramento Kings for so long is now the biggest name to join the franchise's new ownership group.

The Kings announced Monday that Shaquille O'Neal has acquired a minority stake in the team under new owner Vivek Ranadive. The Kings will introduce the four-time NBA champion at a news conference Tuesday in Sacramento.

During the height of his career with the Los Angeles Lakers, O'Neal fueled the rivalry with the Kings with his play on the court and his personality off of it.

O'Neal handed Sacramento its biggest blow by rallying the Lakers from a 3-2 deficit to win the 2002 Western Conference finals, which is still a sore spot for Kings fans. The 7-foot-1 center even labeled the franchise the "Sacramento Queens" and accused fan favorite Vlade Divac

- whom he referred to as "she" at one point - of flopping.

O'Neal was a 15-time All-Star and the 2000 NBA MVP. He played for the Orlando Magic, Los Angeles Lakers, Miami Heat, Phoenix Suns and Cleveland Cavaliers before retiring after the 2010-11 season with the Boston Celtics.

O'Neal, now 41, has worked as an analyst for TNT the last two seasons.

O'Neal is the latest high-profile former player to join the Kings this summer after the franchise nearly moved to Seattle. Hall of Famer Chris Mullin was hired as a consultant to Ranadive - who bought the franchise from the Maloof family in May - and Mitch Richmond is part of the ownership group.

The group includes 24 Hour Fitness founder Mark Mastrov, who is friends with O'Neal. The two partnered in the past to build several gyms, especially in South Florida during O'Neal's time with the Heat. □

Kerber advances to third round at Pan Pacific Open



Angelique Kerber of Germany returns the ball against Maria-Teresa Torro-Flor of Spain during their second round match of Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo, Monday, Sept. 23, 2013.

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Angelique Kerber of Germany advanced to the third round of the Pan Pacific Open by beating Maria-Teresa Torro-Flor 6-0, 6-1 Monday. The fifth-seeded Kerber took advantage of five double-faults to defeat Torro-Flor at Ariake Colos-

seum.

In other second-round matches, seventh-seeded Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic beat Belinda Bencic of Switzerland 7-5, 6-4, and Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic defeated eighth-seeded Roberta Vinci of Italy 7-5, 6-4.

Ana Ivanovic of Serbia advanced to the second round with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Annika Beck of Germany.

The No. 11-seeded Ivanovic lost the first game of each set but bounced back with six straight games to beat Beck.

Ayumi Morita was one of three Japanese players to advance to the second round.

Morita had six aces in a 7-6 (4), 6-3 win over Laura Robson.

Also, Misaki Doi rallied from 5-3 down in the third set to beat Varvara Lepchenko 6-7 (3), 6-0, 7-5 and Kimiko Date-Krumm defeated Australian qualifier Anastasia Rodionova, who retired due to an abdominal injury in the second set with Date-Krumm leading 6-2, 4-1. □

Continued from Page 18

Races 17 and 18, if necessary, are scheduled for Tuesday.

Skipper Dean Barker had Emirates Team New Zealand in the favored leeward position crossing the starting line before Spithill, an Australian, got Oracle Team USA onto its hydrofoils, with both hulls out of the water, and sped into the lead sailing across the wind in front of the Gold-

en Gate Bridge to the first mark.

Oracle increased its lead at each turning mark on the five-leg course between the Golden Gate Bridge and the Embarcadero.

Oracle Team USA has won seven of the last nine races, and nine of 11 since Spithill replaced American tactician John Kosteki with Ainslie, who won four straight Olympic gold medals to go

with his silver medal from 1996. Ainslie clearly has good communications with Slingsby, who won a gold medal at the London Olympics.

This America's Cup stretched into its 17th day, making it the longest in history. The 2003 America's Cup in Auckland, New Zealand, lasted 16 days and ended with Barker and the hard-luck Kiwis losing the silver trophy to Alinghi of Switzerland. □



Emirates Team New Zealand, left, chases Oracle Team USA during the 16th race of the America's Cup sailing event, Monday, Sept. 23, 2013, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

Tests: New iPhones less durable than iPhone 5

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As Apple pitches its newest smartphones, users may find something lacking compared with last year's model: They could break more easily.

SquareTrade, a provider of protection plans for gadgets, tested five smartphones, including Apple's new iPhones, to see if they could withstand drops, dunks and other common hazards. Its finding: The latest models aren't as durable as last year's iPhone 5. The biggest loser, however, was Samsung's Galaxy S4, which failed to work after being submerged in water and being dropped 5 feet (1.5 meters) off the ground, according to San Francisco-based SquareTrade.



U.S. lays out rules for some smartphone health apps

WASHINGTON (AP) — Food and Drug Administration officials say they will begin regulating a new wave of applications and gadgets that work with smartphones to take medical readings and help users monitor their health.

With the rise of the iPhone, Android and other mobile devices has come a flood of applications designed to help people stay healthy. Industry analysts estimate there are already more than 17,000 medical applications available, ranging from calorie counters to high-tech heart monitors. The FDA said Monday that the vast majority of these health care apps don't pose much of a risk to consumers if they malfunction, and will not be federally regulated. Instead, the agency will focus on a handful of apps that turn smartphones into devices, like a heart monitor, or medical attachments that plug into smartphones, like arm cuffs that measure blood pressure.

"Mobile apps have the po-

tential to transform health care by allowing doctors to diagnose patients with potentially life-threatening conditions outside of traditional health care settings, help consumers manage their own health and wellness, and also gain access to useful information whenever and wherever they need it," said Dr. Jeffrey Shuren, director of the FDA's medical device center.

Most health-related apps are free and perform simple functions, like helping users keep track of their meals or calories burned exercising. But a growing number of companies are developing more complex apps and attachments that perform tests and functions once reserved for the doctor's office.

These tools allow users to take photos of their ear drums, monitor irregular heartbeats and even measure lung function. Many of these tools can cost \$100 or more. Sales data is not widely reported so it's not yet clear whether patients

and their doctors are embracing them.

FDA officials said Monday they have already approved 75 of these "mobile medical applications," including 25 in the last year. Agency officials estimate that 500 million smartphone users worldwide will use some type of health app by 2015.

Last year the FDA approved the sale of a \$199 heart monitor from AliveCor. The attachment snaps on like a smartphone case with finger electrodes that measure the users' heart-beat. Hold the device for 30 seconds and it delivers an approximate EKG reading, an essential medical test that checks for problems with the heart's electrical activity. Patients can email the reading to their doctor for analysis.

Other applications in development would allow patients with asthma to measure their lung function by blowing on their phone, rather than using special machines usually found in doctors' offices. □

customer examines a new iPhone 5s at the Nebraska Furniture Mart in Omaha, Neb., on Friday, Sept. 20, 2013, the day the new iPhone 5c and 5s models go on sale.

Associated Press

The phone that withstood SquareTrade's torture test best was Google Inc.'s Moto X. The Moto X is the first phone designed with the Internet company as Motorola's new owner. Released in August, the Moto X is also the first smartphone assembled in the U.S.

"We were expecting that at least one of the new iPhone models would up its game, but surprisingly, it was the Moto X that proved most forgiving of accidents," said Ty Shay, chief marketing officer at SquareTrade.

Officials from Apple Inc., Samsung Electronics Co. and Google Inc. didn't immediately return email messages for comment.

Apple started selling two new iPhones on Friday. The iPhone 5S sports a fingerprint sensor, a better camera and a faster processor. A less expensive version, the iPhone 5C, offers consumers a wider choice of colors and has a better front-facing camera than the iPhone 5.

With every upgrade Apple has made, the latest model has usually been more durable than the previous one, based on drop tests

SquareTrade has done over the past few years, Shay said. But that wasn't the case this time.

SquareTrade reviewed each device based on eight factors, including the materials of the device's front and back panels, its size and its weight. It also tested the device's ability to withstand drops from 5 feet (1.5 meters) and being dunked in water for 10 seconds. SquareTrade says it uses robots to do the testing to ensure consistency. SquareTrade rates phones on a scale of 1 to 10, with a higher number reflecting a higher risk of the device breaking. All five phones tested were considered to have a medium risk of breakage, but where they fell on the scale differed.

The Galaxy S4 scored 7, the worst of the five tested. The S4 ended up not functioning, with its screen coming half off, according to a video released by SquareTrade.

The iPhone 5S, made of aluminum and glass, scored 5.5, while the 5C, with a plastic housing, had a 6 rating. Both were worse than the 5 rating scored by the iPhone 5. □

Stocks fall on economy worries, budget fight

STEVE ROTHWELL

Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Concerns about the strength of the economy and the potential for a budget fight in Washington pushed down the stock market Monday. The Dow Jones industrial average and the Standard & Poor's 500 index fell for a third straight day.

The Dow jumped 147 points last Wednesday to close at an all-time high after the Fed decided to keep its huge economic stimulus program intact. But that rally has been wiped out by anxiety over a budget and debt fight in Washington over the past three days.

Investors initially cheered the Fed's surprise decision to keep its stimulus in place because the program has helped sustain a bull run in stocks dating back to March 2009.

Doubts have crept into investors' minds, however, because the central bank thinks the economy isn't strong enough for it to pull back the stimulus.

William Dudley, the President of the Fed's New York Branch said Monday that while the economy was improving, "the headwinds" created by the financial crisis were only easing slowly.

"At first blush (the stimulus) looks positive," said Kate Warne, an investment strategist at Edward Jones,

a financial advisor. "But at second blush it says conditions weren't as strong as we were previously thinking. Markets are now responding to that."

The Fed is buying \$85 billion in bonds each month to hold down long-term interest rates and encourage borrowing and spending.



Specialist Christopher Culhane works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Investor worries about a budget fight in Washington pushed stocks lower on Monday, Sept. 23, 2013, overshadowing the prospect of more economic stimulus from the Federal Reserve.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

On Monday, the S&P 500 index dropped 8.07 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,701.84. The index was fractionally lower than its level before the Fed's statement last Wednesday.

The Dow fell 49.71 points, or 0.3 percent, to 15,401.38. The Nasdaq composite fell 9.44 points, or 0.3 percent, to 3,765.29.

Financial stocks fell the most among the 10 indus-

a "significant decline" in trading revenues that would crimp its earnings.

Goldman Sachs, which began trading on the Dow Monday, also fell. The stock slipped \$4.50, or 2.7 percent, to \$165.20.

Utilities were the best performing industry group in the S&P 500 index as investors sought less risky places to put their money.

Nike and Visa, along with

Goldman, also began trading on the 30-member Dow on Monday, replacing Alcoa, Bank of America and Hewlett-Packard.

The threat of a looming political showdown over the budget also weighed on investors.

The U.S. House of Representatives voted to defund

President Barack Obama's health care law on Friday, a gesture that reminded Wall Street that the Republican-led House and the Democratic-controlled Senate are poised for a showdown over spending. The debt ceiling must be raised by Oct. 1 to avoid a government shutdown, and a potential default on payments, including debt, later in the month. □

STREET BRIEFS

TD Bank pays \$52M to settle scam charges

MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — TD Bank is paying \$52.5 million to settle U.S. civil charges after regulators accused the bank of failing to report suspicious activity in accounts linked to a \$1.2 billion Ponzi, or pyramid, scheme.

The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency announced settlements Monday with the Canadian bank.

The OCC said TD Bank failed to file suspicious activity reports to the government on the accounts of Scott Rothstein, a former Florida lawyer now serving a 50-year prison sentence for the pyramid scheme. The SEC said the bank deceived investors by saying that it had restricted Rothstein's transfers of money in the accounts.

TD Bank is paying a \$37.5 million penalty to the OCC and a \$15 million penalty to the SEC. □

Chrysler slows Jeep production in Toledo, Ohio

DETROIT (AP) — Chrysler is temporarily slowing production of the new Jeep Cherokee at its plant in Toledo, Ohio.

Chrysler spokeswoman Jodi Tinson said Monday that the company will lay off 500 workers and idle the second shift at its Toledo North plant for around two weeks.

The new Cherokee small SUV is replacing the Liberty in Jeep's lineup. It's a critical product for Chrysler and one of the fastest-growing segments of the market.

Chrysler has already delayed production and deliveries to make sure the SUV's new nine-speed transmission is working smoothly. □

Moody's restores GM debt to investment grade

TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — A key ratings agency has restored General Motors' debt to investment grade status, eight years after the company lost the rating as it spiraled toward bankruptcy protection.

The upgrade came on Monday morning, shortly after GM announced plans to buy back high-interest preferred stock from a union retiree health care trust fund for \$3.2 billion.

Moody's Investors Service raised GM's corporate debt from Ba1, which is junk

status, to Baa3, the lowest investment grade rating. Two other ratings agencies, Fitch and Standard & Poors, still have GM at junk status. The upgrade likely means GM will get lower interest rates when it borrows money in the future.

GM's credit ratings have been in junk territory since 2005, when the company was struggling with huge debts, falling U.S. market share and factories cranking out more cars than people were buying. GM closed plants and erased much of its debt with a 2009 bankruptcy. It has made

an annual profit every year since 2010.

In August, Fitch raised GM's outlook to positive from stable and said it could upgrade GM within two years. Standard and Poor's also raised GM's outlook to positive earlier this month.

"Good things happen when you build great cars and trucks and deliver strong financial results," GM CEO Dan Akerson said in a statement. GM shares rose 11 cents after the news to \$36.94, a little less than a dollar short of the stock's one-year high. The stock is up 28 percent so far this

year. Earlier Monday, the company announced that it would buy back 120 million preferred shares from a United Auto Workers retiree health care trust for \$27 per share. GM will finance the buyback through the sale of senior unsecured notes with five-, 10- or 30-year terms. The debt offering is expected to take place on or before Sept. 30.

GM pays about \$620 million in interest per year on the preferred shares. It could get interest rates from 4 percent to 7 percent on the new debt, according to analysts. □

Fairfax Financial to buy BlackBerry for \$4.7 billion

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — BlackBerry has agreed to a \$4.7 billion sale to a group led by its largest shareholder, Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd., after new smartphones failed to turn the company around.

BlackBerry Ltd. said Monday that a letter of intent has been signed and that its shareholders will receive \$9 in cash for each share. The deal comes just days after the Canadian company announced plans to lay off 40 percent of its global workforce.

The BlackBerry, pioneered in 1999, was once the dominant smartphone for on-the-go business people and other consumers. It could be so addictive that it was nicknamed "the CrackBerry." President Barack Obama couldn't bear to part with his BlackBerry. Oprah Winfrey declared it one of her "favorite things."

But then came a new generation of competing smartphones, starting with Apple's iPhone in 2007. The BlackBerry, that game-changing breakthrough in personal connectedness, looked ancient suddenly. Although BlackBerry was once Canada's most valuable company with a market value of \$83 billion in June 2008, the stock has plummeted from more than \$140 a share to less than \$9, giving it a market value of \$4.6 billion, just short of Fairfax's offer.

Analysts say that although BlackBerry's hardware business is not worth anything, its service business and patents are still valuable. At the end of the second quarter, the company also had total cash and investments of about \$2.6 billion and no debt. The deal follows a \$7.2 billion offer that Microsoft Corp. made this month for the phones and services business of another troubled phone maker, Nokia Corp.

Fairfax head Prem Watsa, who owns 10 percent of BlackBerry, stepped down as a board member because of potential con-

flicts when BlackBerry announced it was considering a sale last month. The company would no longer be traded publicly once the sale goes through.

"We believe this transaction will open an exciting

and Jim Balsillie stepped aside as its co-CEOs in January 2012.

BlackBerry shares plunged 17 percent after the company announced Friday a loss of nearly \$1 billion and layoffs of 4,500 workers. It

"The special committee is seeking the best available outcome for the company's constituents, including for shareholders," BlackBerry chairwoman Barbara Stymiest said in a statement.

peak in the fall of 2009, BlackBerry's smartphones enjoyed global market share of more than 20 percent, says Mike Walkley, an analyst with Canaccord Genuity. That is now just 1.5 percent.

BlackBerry said Friday that it will lay off 4,500 employees as it tries to slash costs by 50 percent and shift its focus back to competing mainly for the business customers. That will bring its global headcount to 7,000. The company cut 5,000 jobs last year.

A week earlier than expected, BlackBerry surprised the market by reporting Friday that it lost nearly \$1 billion in the second quarter. The company is booking over \$900 million in charges to write down the value of its unsold smartphones.

The company also said Friday it plans to focus on offering only two high-end devices and two entry-level phones going forward, with emphasis on the business market.

The decline of BlackBerry, formerly known as Research In Motion Ltd., is evoking memories of Nortel, another Canadian tech giant, which ended up declaring bankruptcy in 2009.

But BGC analyst Colin Gillis said taking BlackBerry private is the right move and said it's possible that BlackBerry could survive in a much smaller form. He noted that the \$9-per-share offer is lower than the \$12.32 average price that the stock traded over the past six months. □



Pedestrians walk near BlackBerry's headquarters in Waterloo, Ontario. BlackBerry has agreed to a \$4.7 billion sale to a group led by its largest shareholder, Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd., after new smartphones failed to turn the company around.
(AP Photo/Geoff Robins)

new private chapter for BlackBerry its customers, carriers and employees," Watsa said in a statement. "We can deliver immediate value to shareholders, while we continue the execution of a long-term strategy in a private company."

Watsa is one of Canada's best-known investors and is founder of Toronto-based Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd. BlackBerry founder Mike Lazaridis recruited Watsa to join the company's board when Lazaridis

gained 9 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$8.82 Monday.

BlackBerry said the general terms of the deal have been approved by its board and a special committee set up to look at options. The company said it will negotiate and execute a definitive transaction agreement with Fairfax by Nov. 4.

During that time, BlackBerry is entitled to continue to find other buyers, but if BlackBerry backs out of the deal, it would owe Fairfax about \$157 million.

Watsa is likely to keep current CEO Thorsten Heins in the job. He said in April that he's a big supporter of Heins and has called his promotion the right decision. He also said he's excited about the company's new BlackBerry 10 operating system.

This year's launch of BlackBerry 10 and fancier devices that use it was supposed to rejuvenate the brand and lure customers. But the much-delayed phones have failed to turn the company around. At their

Wal-Mart Stores to expand jobs for 70K workers

NEW YORK (AP) — Wal-Mart Stores is hiring 55,000 seasonal workers in the U.S. and is elevating 70,000 more to part- or full-time positions as the holiday season ramps up.

The world's largest retailer said Monday that 35,000 temporary workers will become part-time and 35,000 part-time workers will gain full-time jobs. The shift means that Wal-Mart will be offering more of its workers benefits. That's significant because Wal-Mart

has been a target of attacks by labor groups for what they say are skimpy wages and benefits.

Coming off a slower-than-expected back-to-school season, stores are bracing for a tough holiday shopping period, which accounts for as much as 40 percent of their annual revenue. Analysts study the holiday hiring figures from retailers for clues about employment trends and sales expectations for the holiday season. Stores typi-

cally begin to hire for the holidays in mid-September and ramp up hiring in mid-October.

Last season, Wal-Mart hired 50,000 workers and said it would offer more hours in general to its existing employees.

The increase of full-time positions with benefits rather than temporary jobs is a departure from what is going on elsewhere, said Bob Funk, an employment expert and CEO of Express Employment Profession-

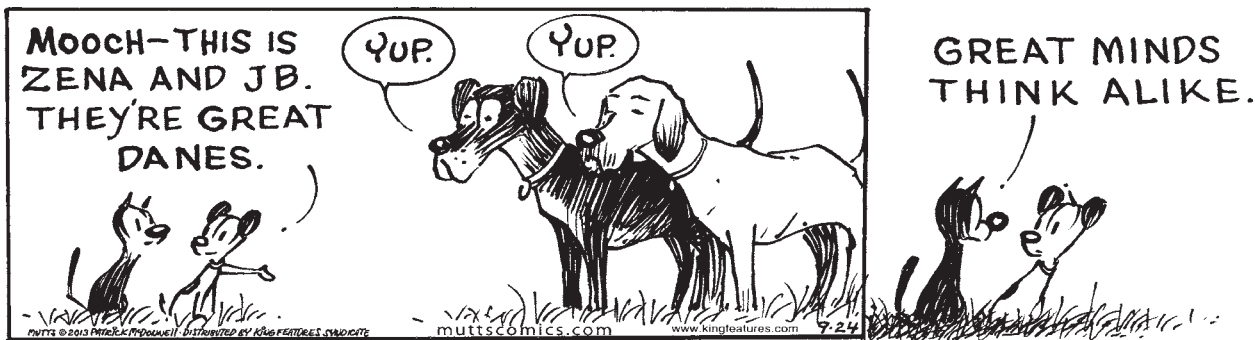
als, which counts Wal-Mart Stores Inc. as one of its largest clients.

"We're seeing hiring, but not at the magnitude of past years," he said.

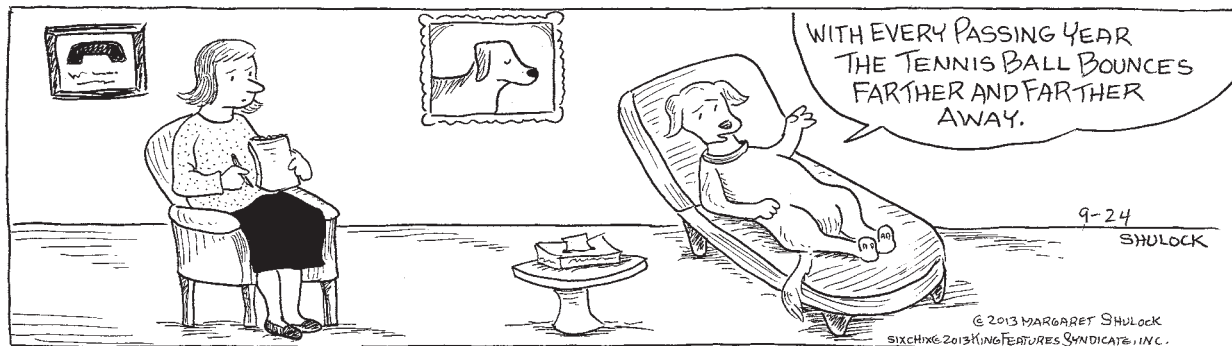
Retailers often look to part-time positions, which typically don't include benefits, as a way to hold down costs.

The Bentonville, Arkansas-based discounter, which is the largest U.S. private employer, has 1.3 million full-time and part-time U.S. workers. □

Mutts



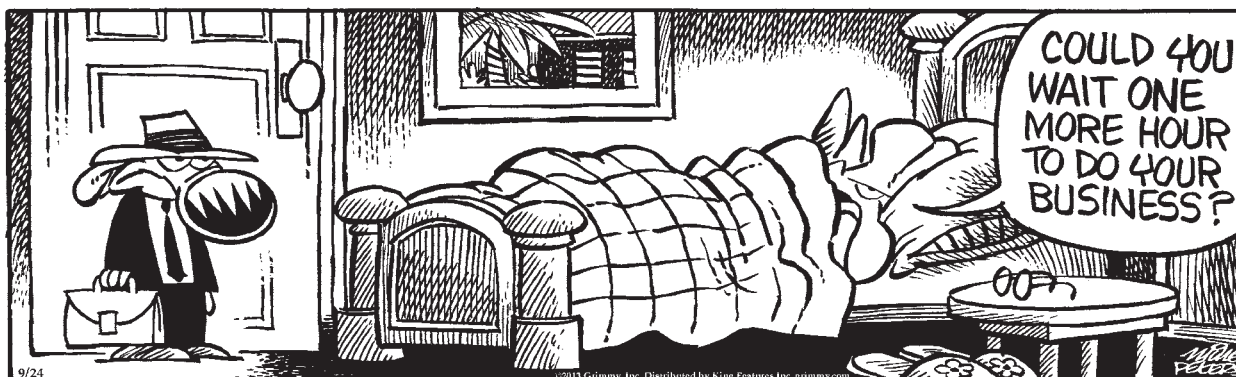
6 Chix



Blondie



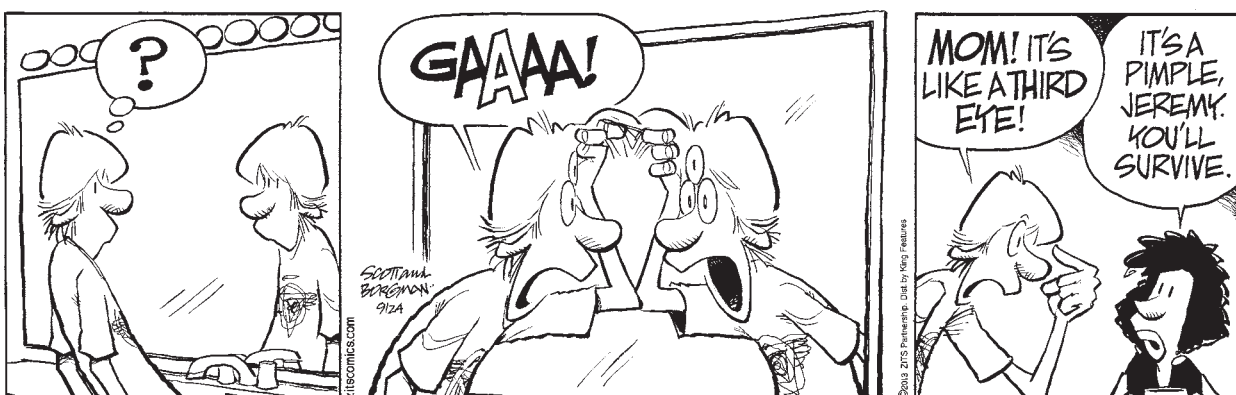
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	8	5	9				6	7
7	4	1			6			
	2			1		8		
							9	8
9	6							
		8		7			2	
			4			7	5	9
1	9				2	3	8	

Difficulty Level ★★

9/24

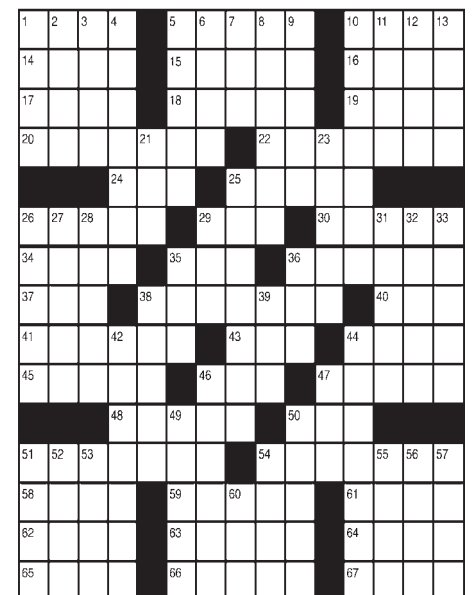
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	7	3	6	8	4	5	1	9
4	8	5	9	1	2	6	3	7
6	1	9	3	5	7	2	4	8
3	2	6	8	7	9	1	5	4
7	5	4	2	6	1	9	8	3
8	9	1	5	4	3	7	2	6
9	6	8	4	2	5	3	7	1
5	4	7	1	3	6	8	9	2
1	3	2	7	9	8	4	6	5

ACROSS

- Headwear for baseball fans
- Leaning
- Hangs limply
- "The Beehive State"
- __ energy; power from the sun
- Tearful request
- Old Roman garment
- Palpable beat in the wrist
- Skunk's defense
- Ghost
- Dangerous wave
- Relatives
- __ with; teases
- Cuddly looking gray marsupial
- Nip in the __; stop early on
- Sacred scroll
- Ferris wheel or merry-go-round
- Fellow
- Mock
- Over the hill
- Seaman
- Four qts.
- Had to have
- Play on words
- Theater box
- Deadly snake
- __ in; admit
- Warning device
- Ore seeker
- White lie
- Intestinal inflammation
- Lack of interest
- Very eager
- School composition
- Lasso, for one
- Threesome
- Discontinue
- Orangutans and gorillas
- Wise proverb
- Hayes or Hunt
- "__ About You"
- TV room, often
- __ badge; Boy Scout's award



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/24/13

Monday's Puzzle Solved

LEO	SLAPS	DRAB
OWNS	PINOT	RISE
BECK	RAKER	ILKA
REITERATE	VEST	
PIES	ABE	
GRAPES	HOMELESS	
OILER	JANET	RIM
AVID	NEWER	HORA
LAB	SEEKS	WISER
SLICKERS	RELENT	
HAD	ROLL	
LAVA	LEGISLATE	
EVIL	EVENT	RODS
NOSE	SENSE	YOGA
SWAT	SNEER	LEG

(c) 2013 Tribune Content Agency, LLC
All Rights Reserved.

9/24/13

DOWN

- __ off; severs

- Perched upon
- Summon with a beeper
- Put in leg-irons
- Colorado resort
- Sightseeing trip
- Sick
- Endured
- Lock of hair
- Godparent
- "M*A*S*H" star
- Tenth-grader's math class, perhaps: abbr.
- Indian garment
- Spanish aunt
- Say
- Evergreen shrub
- Swedish dollar
- Lubricated
- Inserted
- Saloon
- Severity
- Wise proverb
- Hayes or Hunt
- "__ About You"
- TV room, often
- __ badge; Boy Scout's award

- Kook
- Lesser deity of myth
- City in Kansas
- Diminish
- Knighted gent
- Brother's daughter
- Entrance hall
- Felines
- Monster
- Cut of pork
- Foundation
- Idiot
- Unlock
- Untidy state
- Fri.'s follower

Personal Health:

Diet report cards disappoint from time to time

JANE E. BRODY

© 2013 New York Times

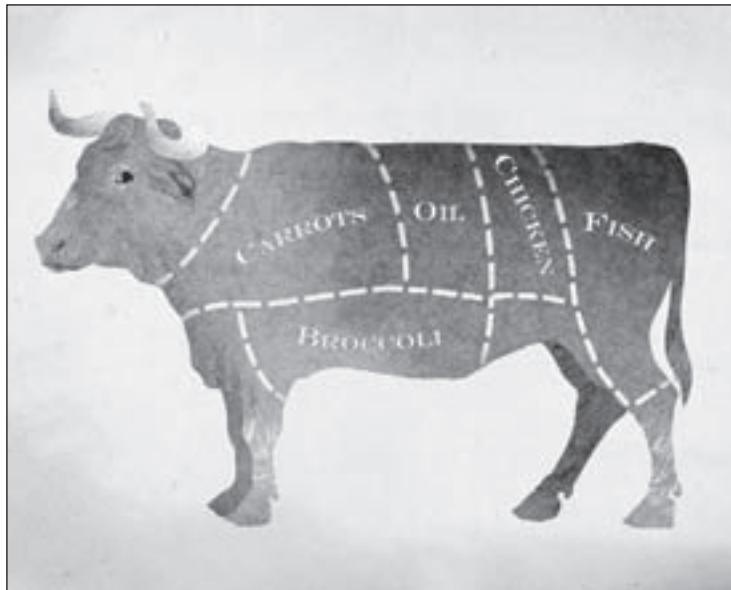
From time to time, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a Washington-based advocacy group, prepares an updated "report card" on changes in the American diet. The latest, collated by the nutritionist Bonnie Liebman and published in the September issue of the center's Nutrition Action Newsletter, is not one Americans should be especially proud of.

The analysis of changes in food consumption from 1970 to 2010 reveals that we still have a long way to go before we come close to meeting dietary guidelines for warding off obesity and chronic health problems like diabetes and heart disease.

The news isn't all bad. Our consumption of added sweeteners, though still significantly higher than it was in 1970, has come down from the "sugar high" of 1999 when the average was 89 pounds per person. Nonetheless, an average of 78 pounds per person in 2010, mostly as sugar and high-fructose corn syrup, is still too much, Liebman points out.

Even our B-plus for cutting back on fats and oils, the highest grade Liebman awarded, is a mixed bag. Yes, we've dramatically reduced consumption of heart-damaging trans fats and, to a lesser extent, saturated solid fats like margarine and shortening. But there's been a steady, steep climb in total fats added to the diet in the form of salad oils and cooking oils.

As a country, we have definitely not been on a "low-fat diet." The average person consumes 20 pounds more in total fat yearly than in 1970, which partly explains why the obesity rate among adults has more than doubled since then, when only 15 percent of Americans were obese. In 2005, the Agriculture Department has reported, the average American con-



An analysis of Americans' diets from 1970 to 2010 reveals we have a way to go in cutting down on harmful fats and starches to ward off obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

(Ellen Weinstein/The New York Times)

sumed 645 calories a day in added fats and oils, not counting the fats naturally present in foods like meats and dairy products.

Americans seem to think that if a food is considered a healthier alternative, it's OK to swallow as much of it as one might like. People forget, or never knew, that a tablespoon of olive oil or canola oil has about the same number of calories as a tablespoon of lard (about 115), and even more calories than a tablespoon of butter or margarine.

"We never were on a low-fat diet," Liebman said in an interview. "We increased our fat intake from pizzas, burgers, french fries, baked goods and restaurant-prepared foods."

Likewise, grain products. "There's been a huge increase in grains in the last 30 years - bread, cereal, pasta, rice, burritos, pizza crust, panini, muffins, scones - mostly made from white flour," she said. "We've been blaming the obesity epidemic on sweets, and we are eating too much sugar, but we need to pay more attention to grains."

"It would not be great to simply replace refined grains like white flour and white rice with whole grains," she added. "We need to cut back on grains, period."

Whether made from white

flour or whole wheat, one unadorned New York-style bagel supplies about 500 calories, and a 21st century muffin often contains as many as 800 calories.

For the average adult, who should aim for a daily intake of 2,000 calories, these grain foods displace far more nutritious (and relatively low-calorie) fruits and vegetables. Our consumption of those earned a B-minus on Liebman's report card.

"We need to replace sandwiches with salads, swap starches for veggies, and trade cookies, cupcakes and chips for fresh fruit," she wrote. "We started eating more vegetables, not counting potatoes, in the 1980s, but the rise has stalled."

Liebman was surprised to find that combined consumption of beef and pork is still higher than that of chicken and fish. Although chicken itself is now slightly more popular than beef, our consumption of fish has remained relatively flat.

In the July/August edition of the Nutrition Action Newsletter, Barton Seaver, the director of the Healthy and Sustainable Food Program at the Harvard School of Public Health, noted that Americans "eat only about 16 pounds of seafood per person per year, and about 95 percent of that comes from only 10 species."

Seaver, a former chef, encourages diners to stray from the familiar to more sustainable - and wholesome - species like pollock, sablefish, Spanish mackerel, haddock, and farm-raised barramundi and shrimp. He champions farm-raised mussels, clams and oysters as sources of "fabulous" lean protein that clean the aquatic environment. Contrary to popular thought, frozen fish is "comparable to, if not better than, fresh fish," because it is frozen on ships within hours of being caught, Seaver said.

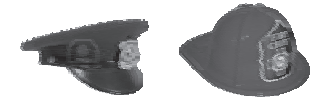
Liebman applauded the steady, precipitous decline in whole milk consumption and the booming popularity of mostly low-fat yogurt. But she noted that consumption of low-fat and fat-free milk has remained low (displaced by sugary soft drinks) and that our consumption of cheese, rich in dairy fat, is at an all-time high, up three-fold since 1970 and still climbing. □

DOCTOR ON DUTY Oranjestad



Dr. Samuel

EMERGENCIA 911



POLIS	100
POLIS	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

PHARMACY

O'STAD: Oduber N.V. Tel: 582-1780

S. NICOLAS: Centro Medico N.V. Tel: 584-5794

SERVICES

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

CRUISESHIP

Aruba Airport	524-2424
American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
Spirit Airlines	582-7117
Tiara Air	588-4272
Venezolana	583-7674

FOUNDATION

FELLOWSHIP CLINIC

Tel: 584-6440
Alcoholism & Drug Addiction,
Anonymity guaranteed

FUNDACION

Anti-Droga

Aruba

(FADA) Tel: 583-2999

FUNDACION

Respetami

Tel: 582-4433

Diabetic Foundation

Arubano

Tel: 583-3808

Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

Foundation Amor

pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 / 586-6976

Women in Difficulties

Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002

Classifieds

FOR SALE/RENT

Timeshare Divi Phoenix

Elegant Ocean Front, One bed room Unit 806 Oct 5 to 12. All amenities five Star Resort, King bed, Queen sleeper couch, 3750 sale, 795 rent. email: rmwjmw@aol.com or 508-651 0016

200956

FOR SALE / TA BENDE

Home sweet Home Real Estate For Sale / Ta Bende Cas / House 3 bedr. 2 bath, property land Wayaca Residence Afl. 240.000,= Yama Ashna Tel: 592-9966

200951

FOR SALE

Renaissance Ocean View

wk 1-137 \$10.500
wk 16 two weeks to Rent \$1000 a week
Call 1-781-760-1048 (cell)
1-781-324-8130
Joe or Mary Summers

114364

Midday naps help pre-schoolers learn, study says

By **MALCOLM RITTER**
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) -- Any parent knows that a daytime nap can help keep pre-schoolers from getting cranky.

Now a small study suggests that it helps them learn, too.

The lesson for grown-ups: Don't cut out the naps if you try to cram more learning activities into a preschooler's day, say researchers from the University of Massachusetts Am-

herst.

They studied 40 children, ages 3 to 5. In the mornings of test days, the children were shown a grid with pictures of nine or 12 items like a cat or an umbrella. That afternoon and the next morning, the children were tested on how well they remembered the location of each image.

All the children were tested under two conditions, one in which they were encouraged to nap before the afternoon test, and another

in which they were kept awake.

Without a nap, they were about 65 percent accurate. With a nap, their accuracy reached about 75 percent.

The research shows that "naps are important for preschool children," Rebecca Spencer, senior author of the study, said in a statement.

The study was published Monday by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. □

Longer delay for space station delivery mission



In this photo provided by NASA, the Orbital Sciences Corp. cargo ship Cygnus launches from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility on Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013, in Wallops Island, Va.

Associated Press

Researchers turn to cannons to save elusive birds

By **RODRIQUE NGOWI**
Associated Press

EASTHAM, Mass. (AP) -- Three cannons explode on a deserted Cape Cod beach, unleashing a startling cloud of white smoke and sand. In tandem, projectiles erupt from the ground, flinging a net over a group of elusive shorebirds known as red knots.

A dozen wildlife researchers emerge from hiding and sprint to transfer the prized catch into holding boxes and then to a camp nearby.

There, they collect feather samples as they measure, weigh and tag the robin-size birds, then fit their legs with tiny geolocators and release them.

Biologists hope the geolocators will use ambient light to calculate and record the locations of the rosy-breasted birds, helping conservation workers who will recapture them to determine their migration routes and refueling stops. The red knot is already on New Jersey's endangered species list and has been proposed for inclusion on the federal list. It's known for its South America-to-Arctic migration, a 10,000-mile flight.

The population has



A researcher uses a clothes hanger to secure a geo-locator in place on the leg of a Red Knot shore bird while the glue dries on the north end of Nauset Beach in Eastham, Mass., Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013. On a 20 inch wingspans Red Knots migrate as much as 9,300 miles from the Arctic south to the Caribbean and South America in the fall and will fly a return migration each spring. Red Knots are one of the longest-distance migrants in the animal kingdom.

Associated Press

dropped by up to 75 percent since the 1980s in some areas, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The decrease is partly fueled by a drastic decline in the horseshoe crab population in Delaware Bay, a key refueling stop during their migration to the Arctic breeding grounds.

Red knots may also be vulnerable at areas where juveniles spend their first winter away from the Arctic, said Stephanie Koch, biologist for Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge. Identifying those

locations will enable experts to evaluate if they are protected and secure enough for the species.

The plight of the red knots highlights a bigger problem.

"We've been focusing on the knot because there's big migration, this is a flashy shorebird, but 70 percent of shorebird species are in decline," said Lawrence J. Niles of the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey. "It's the stopovers. ... If they don't have them, then they either can't make it down or can't make it back." □

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — A new commercial spaceship will wait all week before aiming again for the International Space Station.

Orbital Sciences Corp.'s Cygnus capsule was supposed to arrive Sunday, four days after its launch. But the rendezvous was aborted because of a discrepancy in navigation data between the two vessels.

The Virginia company has developed and tested a software repair to sync up the two sets of GPS data. Different formats inadvertently were used for reporting time, said company spokesman Barron Beneski. NASA's Bruce Manners, a commercial space project executive, called it a "very small, simple fix."

Despite the quick remedy, NASA and Orbital Sciences agreed Monday to delay this second delivery attempt until at least Saturday.

That's because of an impending manned mission from Kazakhstan; it would have cut it too close and

created too big a workload to squeeze in the Cygnus before then.

Three astronauts are scheduled to blast off on a Russian rocket Wednesday and arrive at the space station later in the day. That will round out the crew to the normal six.

This is the maiden voyage of the Cygnus and therefore considered a test flight. Only one other private company has attempted space station shipments: Space Exploration Technologies Corp. of California, good for three deliveries over the past 1½ years. SpaceX launches from Cape Canaveral, while Orbital Sciences flies from Wallops Island, Virginia.

NASA is contracting with the two companies to keep the 260-mile (418-kilometer)-high outpost stocked. Space shuttles used to ferry U.S. supplies. Russia, Japan and Europe launch their own cargo.

Manners said the Cygnus has plenty of fuel and opportunities for numerous approaches. A firm delivery date will be chosen following the Soyuz arrival late Wednesday. □

Actor compares 'Marvel's Agents' role to lottery

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A movie-size blockbuster is a rarity on the small screen, the Super Bowl aside, but "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." boasts the pedigree to make a run at it. The drama series has the nearly prerequisite comic-book heritage and the added benefit of hitmaker Joss Whedon ("The Avengers," "Buffy the Vampire Slayer") as co-creator and executive producer. Which is why Brett Dalton considers himself a very fortunate actor to be playing Grant Ward, a combat and espionage expert serving with — take a deep breath — the Strategic Homeland Intervention Enforcement and Logistics Division. "Nobody's more lucky than me to get this part,

and I know that I won the Lotto on this," said Dalton, whose credits include "Army Wives" and the part of President Lincoln's son Robert in the TV movie "Killing Lincoln." Executive producers Jed Whedon (Joss' brother) and Maurissa Tancharoen count themselves equally fortunate. "When we saw Brett Dalton's audition we all blurted out the words, 'Cast him,'" they said in an email. "He landed the humor and emotion of a man who isn't used to playing with others with the right amount of subtlety." "The guy also looks like a superhero, so there's that," they added of the actor with a perfect thicket of dark hair and cheekbones to die for. "Marvel's Agents," debuting 8 p.m. EDT Tuesday, is



This updated publicity photo provided by ABC shows co-star Brett Dalton in the premiere episode "Pilot" for ABC's TV series, "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.," co-created by Joss Whedon. Associated Press

a TV follow of sorts to "The Avengers," which already has a sequel in the works. In the TV show, S.H.I.E.L.D.

operatives lack superpowers but bravely search out threats worldwide. Its director is Phil Coulson, unde-

terred by dying in 2012's "The Avengers" and played again by Clark Gregg, with Ming-Na Wen, □

U.S. court hears dispute over photos of bluesman



EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS

Associated Press

JACKSON, Mississippi (AP) — A Mississippi Supreme Court panel has heard arguments about who should make money from the only two known photographs of the late Robert Johnson, a bluesman who myth has it sold his soul to the devil for guitar prowess. Johnson was destitute when he died in 1938 at age 27. His estate is valuable, partly because of a collection of his recordings that won a Grammy in

1990.

Three justices heard arguments Monday in the photo dispute. On one side are descendants of Johnson's late half-sister, Carrie Harris Thompson. Their attorney argues the photos were Thompson's personal property but that others profited from them. On the other side are Sony Music Entertainment Inc.; Johnson's only heir, his son Claud Johnson; and a promoter who had a 1974 contract with Thompson. □

TOP Deals

FROM ARUBA'S #1 SUPERMARKET

<p>Familia Paper Products Starting from 1.99</p> <p>BUY 1 GET THE NEXT 50% OFF!</p> <p>*ON SELECT ITEMS</p>	<p>Chicken Curry Salad 100g from 2.25 to 1.69</p> <p>25% OFF!</p>	<p>Apple crumble pie 10b from 15.95 to 12.95</p>
<p>Heineken Beer Keg 5liter from 57.50 to 49.99</p> <p>15% OFF!</p>	<p>Red Apples 3lbs from 7.95 to 5.95</p> <p>25% OFF!</p>	
<p>Libby's Canned Vegetables Starting from 1.69</p> <p>BUY 1 GET THE NEXT 50% OFF!</p> <p>*ON SELECT ITEMS</p>	<p>La Yogurt Banana or Mango Yoghurt 32oz from 5.65 to 3.99</p> <p>30% OFF!</p>	
<p>Euroshopper Shower Gel 300ml Only for 1.99</p> <p>NEW!</p>	<p>Cabrito 500g from 9.75 to 7.25</p> <p>25% OFF!</p>	<p>Fish Cutlets 100g from 29.95 to 2.50</p>

Groceries Like Home!

THE #1 SUPERMARKET IN ARUBA

Offer valid until September 29, 2013 or while supplies last. All prices are in Aruban florins.

LING & SONS IGA Super Center

U.S. honors Ray Charles with stamp



This undated handout image provided by the US Postal Service shows a Music Icons Forever stamp honoring soul singer Ray Charles. Postal officials say the agency is releasing a stamp featuring the Albany, Ga., native on Monday along with one of the artist's previously unreleased songs.

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The U.S. Postal Service is planning to add soul singer Ray Charles to its "Music Icons Forever" stamp series. Postal officials say the agency is releasing a stamp featuring the Albany, Georgia, native on Monday along with one of the artist's previously unreleased songs. Charles was a singer and songwriter who pioneered the soul and rhythm and blues genres. He died in 2004. Events are being

planned in Atlanta and Los Angeles to celebrate Charles' inclusion in the series. R&B singer Ashanti and the Morehouse College Glee Club are scheduled to perform at the Atlanta school's Ray Charles Performing Arts Center. And Chaka Khan is headlining an event at the Grammy Museum. The U.S. Postal Service honors music legends each year by featuring them on limited-edition stamps. □



This undated publicity photo provided by NBC shows Christina Aguilera during the "Blind Auditions" for "The Voice."

Associated Press

Aguilera perfects motherhood-career balancing act

NICOLE EVATT

Associated Press

WEST HOLLYWOOD, California (AP) — Christina Aguilera said a season away from "The Voice" was the break that she needed to get reinvigorated — for herself, the show and the contestants. Aguilera and CeeLo took time off from the show last season, and were replaced by Usher and Shakira. But they're back in their signature red chairs on Monday night when the

hit talent competition premieres on NBC.

Speaking to a small group of reporters last week, Aguilera said the show, now in its fifth season, was taking a bit of a toll on her — coupled with her demanding life outside of it — including being a mother to 5-year-old son Max.

"As artists we need to feel like we're appreciated and we're understood and we're given the breathing room, because we're constantly in front of the camera giving, giving, giving, giving. And then I'm a mother on top of that, and it's giving, giving, giving at home. And it's like, when do I get something back?" she said, eliciting laughter. "You know, and I'm giving, giving to my team. And it's just like, you know, I just — you just, you know, need to take a moment."

Aguilera's commitment to finding that elusive balance of life and career is something she's teaching this year's crop of singing hopefuls.

"It's learning how to better care and protect and nurture yourself," she said. "I'm giving these kids that coaching advice on my team this year and I'm trying to get them to step, sometimes away from,

sorry, the competition of it and just live and breathe into music and remember why you're up there on that stage." Still, she's interested in the winning part of it. She hasn't had a trophy to show in her three years of coaching and is trying to change that this year. Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine has won once, while country singer Blake Shelton has held the title three years running. Aguilera is taking a page from Levine and Shelton's book and perfecting her hard sell in the hope of nabbing this year's top contestants for her team. "Adam's like deliciously competitive," she said. "You just see his, you know, the blood boiling because he's the best sales pitch. I mean, he's a genius sales pitch guy. ... He'll sell a used car to your grandma." Audiences may revel in seeing her and Levine go head to head, but Aguilera insists it's all friendly competition. "That's what was so cool about coming back this season is because there's a comfort level that we've never had before," the 32-year-old said. "That it's just like we know each other so well. We know what's going to get each other ticking or riled up, emotional. And it's cool." □

Austen museum successful in bid to buy Jane's ring

LONDON (AP) — A Jane Austen museum said Monday that it has raised enough money to buy the writer's ring back from pop singer Kelly Clarkson. Earlier this year, the British government placed a temporary export ban on the gold-and-turquoise ring Clarkson bought at auction in the hope that money could be found to keep it in Britain.

Jane Austen's House Museum in southern England

said it had raised 157,740 pounds (\$252,436) — enough to keep the ring in Britain.

The funds were raised in just over a month, and included a 100,000 pound donation from an anonymous benefactor.

The "Pride and Prejudice," author died at age 41 in 1817, and left the ring to her sister Cassandra. It had been in the family until the auction last year. The British government

has the power to temporarily halt the export of works judged to be national treasures.

Clarkson — an Austen fan who owns a first edition of the author's novel "Persuasion" — has agreed to sell the ring to the museum.

"The ring is a beautiful national treasure and I am happy to know that so many Jane Austen fans will get to see it at Jane Austen's House Museum," she said. □

The Pope's Radical Whisper



FRANK BRUNI
© 2013 New York Times

It's about time. The leader of the Roman Catholic Church has surveyed the haughty scolds in its ranks, noted their fixation on matters of sexual morality above all others and said enough is enough. I'm not being cheeky with this one-word response. Hallelujah. But it wasn't the particulars of Pope Francis' groundbreaking message in an interview published last week that stopped me in my tracks, gave fresh hope to many embittered Catholics and caused hardened commentators to perk up. It was the sweetness in his timbre, the meekness of his posture. It was the revelation that a man can wear the loftiest of miters without having his head swell to fit it, and can hold an office to which the term "infallible" is often attached without forgetting his failings. In the interview, Francis called himself naïve, worried that he'd been rash in the past and made clear that the flock harbored as much wisdom as the shepherds. Instead of commanding people to follow him, he invited them to join him. And did so gently, in what felt like a whisper.

What a surprising portrait of modesty in a church that had lost touch with it.

And what a refreshing example of humility in a world with too little of it.

That's what stayed with me, not the olive branch he extended to gay people or the way he brushed aside the contraception wars but his personification of a virtue whose deficit in American life hit me full force when I spotted it here, in his disarming words. Reading and then rereading the interview, I felt like a bird-watcher who had just stumbled upon a dodo.

I'm hardly the first to flag this pope's apparent humility or the fact that it extends beyond his preference for simple dress over regal costumes, for a Ford Focus over a papal chariot, for modest quarters over a monarch's suite. Less than two months ago, when he answered a question about gay priests with a question of his own - "Who am I to judge?" - the self-effacement in that phrase was widely and rightly celebrated. Was a pope really acting and talking like this?

For a textbook case of humil-

ity gone missing, consider right-wing Republicans' efforts to derail Obamacare by whatever crude and disruptive means necessary. The health care law has its flaws, some of them profound, but it was legitimately passed, in accordance with the rules, and to stray outside them in order to make it go away is to believe that they don't apply to you, that your viewpoint trumps the process itself. It's the summit of arrogance.

Humility doesn't work in the cross-fire of our political combat. Certainty and single-mindedness are better fuels.

How exactly does President Barack Obama fit in? While his Syria reversals may well have diminished him, they had a sort of humility to them, reflected a willingness to yield to the strong feelings of others and deserve some acknowledgment along those lines. Leadership, more art than science, should be a mix of rallying people to your cause and recognizing when you stand too far away from them. But in Obama there's a recurrent deflection of criticism and a refusal to abide certain political customs and efficiencies - the stroking, the rewarding, the mantra-style repetition of a simplified argument for a distracted populace - that work against his success and smack of excessive pride. He could take a page from this pope.

I never expected to write that. For too many years I watched the chieftains of the church wrap themselves in lavish pageantry and prioritize the protection of fellow clergy members over the welfare of parishioners. They allowed priests who sexually abused children to evade accountability and, in many cases, to abuse again. That cover-up was the very antithesis of humility, driven by the belief that shielding the church from public scandal mattered more than anything else.

He cast himself as a struggling pastor determined to work in a collaborative fashion. He characterized himself as a sinner. "It is not a figure of speech, a literary genre," he clarified. "I am a sinner."

He didn't right past wrongs. Let's be clear about that. Didn't call for substantive change to church teachings and traditions that indeed demand re-examination, including the belief that homosexual acts themselves are sinful. Didn't challenge the all-male, celibate priesthood. Didn't speak as progressively - and fairly - about women's roles in the church as he should.

But he also didn't present himself as someone with all the answers. No, he stepped forward - shuffled forward, really - as someone willing to guide fellow questioners. In doing so he recognized that authority can come from a mix of sincerity and humility as much as from any blazing, blinding conviction, and that stature is a respect you earn, not a pedestal you grab. That's a useful lesson in this grabby age of ours. □



Mother Nature And The Middle Class



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
© 2013 New York Times

If you fell asleep 30 years ago, woke up last week and quickly scanned the headlines in Iran and Egypt, you could be excused for saying, "I didn't miss a thing." The military and the Muslim Brotherhood are still slugging it out along the Nile, and Iranian pragmatists and ideologues are still locked in a duel for control of their Islamic Revolution.

So go back to sleep? Not so fast. I can guarantee that the next 30 years will not be the same old, same old. Two huge new forces have muscled their way into the center of both Egyptian and Iranian politics, and they will bust open their old tired duopolies.

The first newcomer is Mother Nature. Do not mess with Mother Nature. Iran's population in 1979 when the Islamic Revolution occurred was 37 million; today it's 75 million. Egypt's was 40 million; today it's 85 million. The stresses from more people, climate change and decades of environmental abuse in both countries can no longer be ignored or bought off.

On July 9, Iran's former agriculture minister, Issa Kalantari, an adviser to Iran's new president, Hasan Rouhani, spoke to this reality in the Ghanoon newspaper: "Our main problem that threatens us, that is more dangerous than Israel, America or political fighting, is the issue of living in Iran," said Kalantari. "It is that the Iranian plateau is becoming uninhabitable. ... Groundwater has decreased and a negative water balance is widespread, and no one is thinking about this."

He continued: "I am deeply

worried about the future generations. ... If this situation is not reformed, in 30 years Iran will be a ghost town. Even if there is precipitation in the desert, there will be no yield, because the area for groundwater will be dried and water will remain at ground level and evaporate." Kalantari added: "All the bodies of natural water in Iran are drying up: Lake Urmieh, Bakhtegan, Tashak, Parishan and others." Kalantari concluded that the "deserts in Iran are spreading, and I am warning you that South Alborz and East Zagros will be uninhabitable and people will have to migrate. But where? Easily I can say that of the 75 million people in Iran, 45 million will have uncertain circumstances. ... If we start this very day to address this, it will take 12 to 15 years to balance."

In Egypt, soil compaction and rising sea levels have already led to saltwater intrusion in the Nile Delta; overfishing and overdevelopment are threatening the Red Sea ecosystem, and unregulated and unsustainable agricultural practices in poorer districts, plus more extreme temperatures, are contributing to erosion and desertification. The World Bank estimates that environmental degradation is costing Egypt 5 percent of gross domestic product annually.

But just as Mother Nature is demanding better governance from above in both countries, an emergent and empowered middle class, which first reared its head with the 2009 Green revolution in Iran and the 2011 Tahrir revolution in Egypt, is doing so from below. A government that just provides "order" alone in either country simply won't cut it anymore. Order, drift and decay were tolerable when populations were smaller, the environment not so degraded, the climate less volatile, and citizens less technologically empowered and connected.

Both countries today need "order-plus" - an order that enables dynamism and resilience, and that can be built only on the rule

of law, innovation, political and religious pluralism, and greater freedoms. It requires political and economic institutions that are inclusive and "sustainable," in both senses of that word. Neither country can afford the old line that Hosni Mubarak used for so many years when addressing American leaders: "After me comes the flood, so you'd better put up with my stale, plodding but stable leadership, otherwise you'll get the Muslim Brotherhood."

That is so 1970s. As Karim Sadjadpour, an Iran expert at the Carnegie Endowment, puts it: In the Middle East today "it's no longer 'After me, the flood' - Après moi, le déluge - but 'After me, the drought.'" Syria's revolution came on the heels of the worst drought in its modern history, to which the government failed to respond.

Iran's Islamic leadership seems to realize that it cannot keep asking its people to put up with crushing economic sanctions to preserve a nuclear weapons option. Mother Nature and Iran's emergent middle classes require much better governance, integrated with the world. That's why Iran is seeking a nuclear deal now with Washington.

And that's why two of the most interesting leaders to watch today are Rouhani of Iran and Egypt's new military strongman, Gen. Abdel Fattah el-Sissi. Both men rose up in the old order, but both men were brought into the top leadership by the will of their emergent middle classes and newly empowered citizens, and neither will be able to maintain order without reforming the systems that produced them - making them more sustainable and inclusive. They have no choice: too many people, too little oil, too little soil.

And pay attention: What Mother Nature and these newly empowered citizens have in common is that they can both set off a wave - a tsunami - that can overwhelm their systems at any moment, and you'll never see it coming. □

Every Tuesday Night from 7pm - 9pm:

Steel Pan Night at Palm Beach Plaza Mall



SteelPan Night

every tuesday 8pm-10pm

COME AND ENJOY ARUBA'S OWN STEELPAN MUSIC AT PALM BEACH PLAZA MALL

SHOPPING BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER

Palm Beach Plaza Mall • L.G. Smith Boulevard #95, Palm Beach, Aruba • palmbeachplaza.com • FaceBook: Palm Beach Plaza



PALM BEACH - Nico Connor, a second generation steel pan recording artist who is one of the 2 performing sons of the late Edgar Connor, Aruba steel pan pioneer who obviously shared his talent with his sons.



Nico has being surrounded by (steel pan) music and was in love with the sound from a young age, his mother Gloria Connor the great arranger of the famous invaders steel band gave him a saxophone that's still at his side but his steel pans have always had his priority in any form or music.

Together with his also talented brother Lee brought a new trade wind to steel pan music, arrangements

and performing. As a steel pan performer/label owner he's always looking for the next step to add to his virtuosity groovy sounds, and expand his musical journey beyond the horizon.

The all-star band will be performing at Palm Beach Plaza Mall.

We invite you to come and experience Aruba's heritage on Steel Pan Music, tonight at Palm Beach Plaza Mall. □